Torres assures funding for NMTI. PAGE 3
'All United passengers are accommodated in quarantine' PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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www.saipantribune.com THURSDAY MARCH 11, 2021 www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Pickup truck catches fire

This frame grab from a viral video on social media shows the flames consuming the pickup truck yesterday on Capital Hill. DFEMS

By NEIL FAMA
neil_fama@saipantribune
REPORTER

A silver pickup truck that was driving up Capital Hill yesterday morning caught fire just below the turn to CNMI Medicaid Office, causing a traffic jam in the area. A passing motorist managed to record the incident, causing the video clip to go viral on social media in the CNMI.

According to a Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services press statement, the pickup truck's driver was safe and that no one was hurt in the incident. Also, no treat-

See TRUCK on Page 4

Peter sworn in as public auditor

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kina Borja Peter, the first female public auditor of the CNMI, was sworn in yesterday at the Guma Hus-

See PETER on Page 4

With some Office of the Public Auditor staff behind her, Kina Borja Peter, the CNMI's first female public auditor, signs her oath as public auditor after Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho administered her oath of office at the Guma' Hustisia in Susupe yesterday. JUSTINE NAUTA

Student creates Chamorro-Carolinian Braille system

Mowbray

By NEIL FAMA
neil_fama@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Harris Mowbray, an International Relations major at American University, Washington, D.C., recently took a year off from school to use his programming and linguistic skills to create a Braille system for the Chamorro and Carolinian alphabets, paving the way for giving blind people in the Chamorro and Carolinian

See STUDENT on Page 4

A weary world looks back—and forward

By MICHELLE R. SMITH and
ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

Editor's Note: The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020.

No one has been untouched.

Not the Michigan woman who awakened one morning, her wife dead by her side. Not the domestic worker in Mozambique, her livelihood threatened by the virus. Not the North

See WEARY on Page 4

> I expected to go back [to school] after that week. I didn't think that it would take years.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 8pm, March 10, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,752	4	7,756
Recovered	7,598	2	7,600
Active	19	4	23
Deaths	133	0	133
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			131,471

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	146	0	146
Traced via Travel Screening	120	0	120
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			203

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Saipan:	Tinian:	Rota:
Dose 1: 10,858	Dose 1: 662	Dose 1: 745
Dose 2: 8,292	Dose 2: 138	Dose 2: 345

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Eats Easy, the only food delivery service on Saipan, has already made close to 18,000 deliveries.

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NATION
The jury selection in the trial of a former police officer charged in George Floyd's death begins.

PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
Piers Morgan quits the "Good Morning Britain" program after making comments about Meghan.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

CNMI receives J&J COVID-19 vaccine doses

The CNMI received the 400 doses of the one-shot Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine yesterday, according to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

According to a CHCC Facebook post, it said the vaccine is for Saipan residents who are 65 years and older and will be administered at the Medical Care and Treatment Site at the back of the Commonwealth Health Center on Navy Hill.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said in the Facebook post that the 400 doses will allow CHCC to advertise the vaccine to draw in the *man'amko* so that they can call and CHCC will be able to arrange when they will start administering the doses.

Muña said that the process of getting the vaccine will be the same as getting the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, although, unlike these two vaccines that require two inoculations, the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be administered just once.

COVID-19 in Guam

Four new cases of COVID-19 were identified out of 313 tests performed last March 9, according to the Joint Information Center on Guam. One case reported recent travel history and was identified in quarantine.

To date, there have been a total of 7,756 cases of COVID-19 in Guam, with 133 deaths, 23 cases in active isolation, and 7,600 not in active isolation.

As for vaccinations, JIC said that mass vaccinations will continue through March 13, from 10am to 5:30pm. Additionally, no first doses of the vaccine will be administered; however, first vaccinations will start on March 16. ***(Justine Nauta)***

Emergency water outage on Middle Road, Beach Road

There will be an emergency water service interruption today, March 11, from 8:30am to 11:30am for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers on Middle Road and Beach Road.

This is due to the cutting and capping of the existing 1-inch and 2-inch waterlines on Rosa Street in Garapan that is no longer needed. Water service to the affected areas will be restored soon eafter.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https ://www. facebook.com/C ommonwealthUti I itie s Corporation!). ***(PR)***

August, September eyed to start work on Beach Road Improvement Project

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works is looking at August or September to start the actual construction of the 2.2-mile Beach Road Improvement Project, which begins at the As Perdido intersection all the way to Atkins Toyota in Oleai/San Jose.

DPW senior highway engineer Henry Bautista discussed the project during a meeting yesterday afternoon with the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications.

In a later interview, Bautista said they have about $12 million for the project from the Federal Highway Administration and the Department of the Interior. He said they are currently working on the National Environmental Policy Act environmental process and completing the final plan. Right now, the plan is 90% complete, he added. He said the designer is working on the final plan, which can be finished in three weeks.

"After that we will package the plan, [specifics], estimate and the environmental clearances and we will send it to Federal Highway [Administration] to approve the funding so that we can start bidding out," Bautista said.

He said the $12 million funding is a cost share between the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"The money is there," he added.

Bautista said they are looking at late April this year to bid out the project and, after 60 to 90 days, when the contract is completed, they can issue the notice-to-proceed. He said the construction contract is about a year.

DPW Secretary James Ada, who also testified at the meeting, said many road projects will kick off this year not only on Saipan, but also on Rota and Tinian.

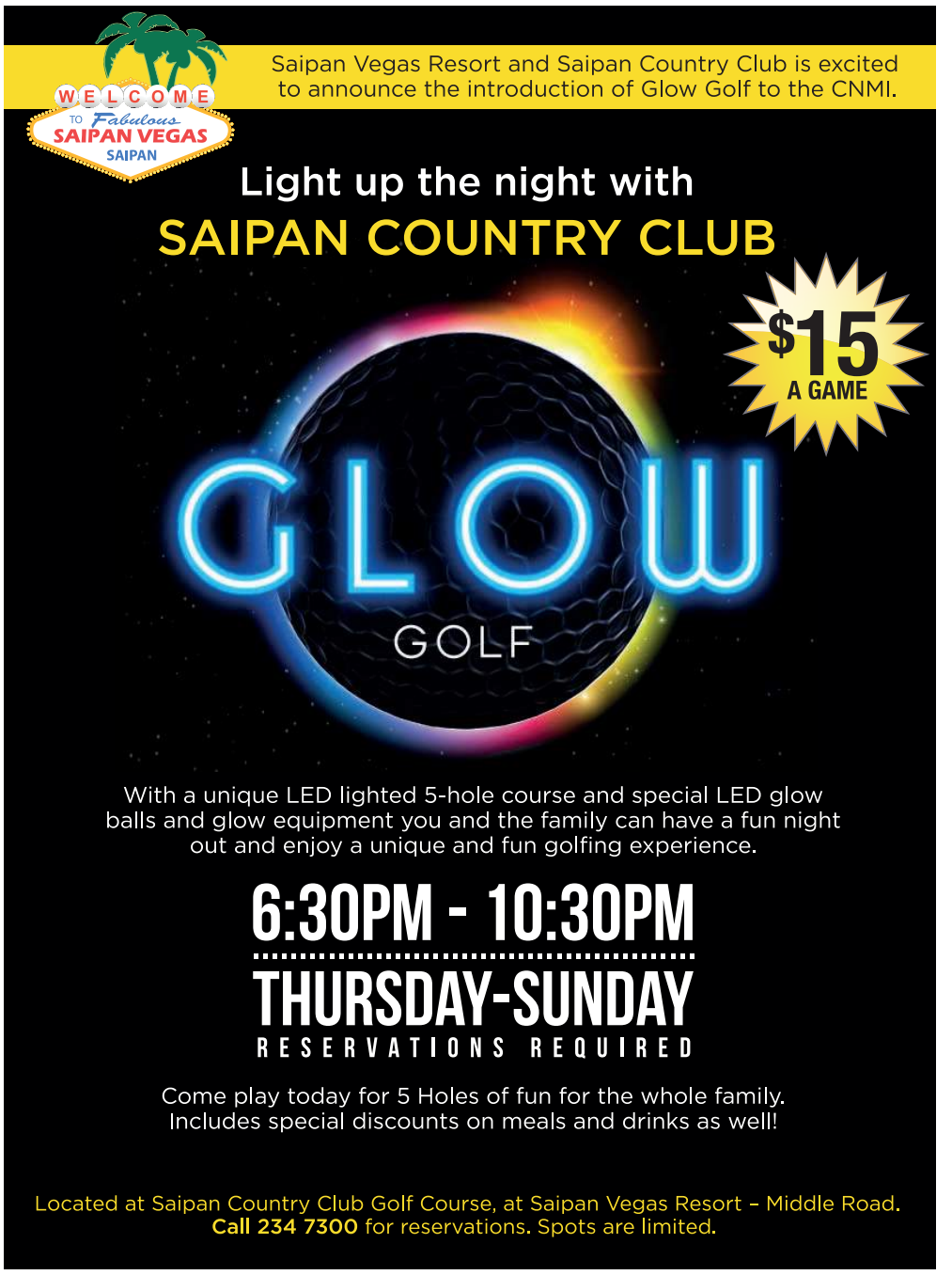
Ada later urged people to be patient as they have been preparing all the scopes of work and the designs, and other works for these road projects since last year.

He said the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funding will really help the CNMI with its road improvements.

Ada said they also have DOI funding and, in fact, they are purchasing a vacuum truck for DPW. He said the early bid was submitted Tuesday.

Ada said the federal agencies are really assisting the CNMI, while lawmakers are trying their best to provide local appropriations to projects such as speed bumps, secondary roads, and bus stops.

LET'S VACCINATE, CNMI!
• Registration EXPANDED to persons 50 years and older on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota!
• Continued registration Phase 1a & 1b!
• Register ONLINE at www.vaccinatecnmi.com
• Register over the PHONE by calling (670) 682-SHOT/(7468)
CNMI COVID-19 VACCINATION SCHEDULE 3/8/2021-3/15/2021
Vaccination varies by location and availability. We are currently not accommodating vaccine preference requests. LAST CALL: is the time the last vaccine will be given to a checked in patient.
SAIPAN
Monday 3/8 - 8am (open) to 5:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/15
Tuesday 3/9 - 8am (open) to 5:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/16
Wednesday 3/10 - 8am (open) to 5:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/17
Thursday 3/11 - 8am (open) to 5:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/18
Friday 3/12 - 8am (open) to 2:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/19
Monday 3/15 - 8am (open) to 5:30pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/22
LOCATION: CHCC - MCATS
AVAILABLE VACCINE: PFIZER
PARKING: Parking lot is located across the CHCC campus on Navy Hill Road.
TINIAN
Friday 3/12 - 9am (open) to 3pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
Monday 3/15 - 9am (open) to 3pm (last call)
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated 2/14 & 2/15
LOCATION: Tinian Health Center
AVAILABLE VACCINE: MODERNA
ROTA
Saturday 3/13 - 8am to 1pm
• Dose 1: Available for Phase 1a & 1b
Monday 3/15 - 8am to 1pm
• Dose 2: For those vaccinated on 2/15
LOCATION: Rota Health Center
AVAILABLE VACCINE: MODERNA
What to Bring
1. Vaccination ID (Located in confirmation email)
2. Government Issued ID (e.g, driver's license or passport)
3. Employee ID or latest paystub (Phase 1b only)
4. Insurance Card (If applicable)
5. DOSE 2 recipients must also bring their Vaccination Record Card (please make your appointment date even if you misplace your card)
VACCINATE CNMI CALL CENTER: (670) 682-SHOT / Mon-Sat 8am-8pm & Sunday 8am-1:30pm
VACCINATE CNMI WEBSITE: vaccinatecnmi.com
@cnmichcc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Torres assures funding for NMTI

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will be meeting with the CNMI Department of Labor to work out giving additional funds from the CNMI-Only Transitional Workers fund to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

Speaking at the governor's radio news briefing last Monday, Torres said that he already gave $500,000 to NMTI from the first Governor's Economic Recovery Fund. This marked the beginning of the assistance to NMTI.

Torres assured that he will make sure that NMTI will get financial assistance as well as logistics and other systems it needs to be a successful technical institution.

Torres said he has also asked NMTI board of trustees chair Mario Valentino to look into how NMTI can partner up with construction companies to beef up the institution's construction program, and to also consider assisting Tinian and Rota with their construction needs.

Among other things, Torres recommended a review of the vision and mission of NMTI because "times and the priorities of the CNMI changes." He added that the administration wants to make sure to give the community a chance to be part of the changes.

"I've asked the board to look at and reevaluate what the CNMI needs, labor workforce-[wise], because at this point, we have $244 million on Northern Marianas Housing Corp.-Disaster Relief projects, we have Federal Emergency Management Agency projects, whether it's be public assistance or hazard mitigation, and additional funding from the American Rescue Plan," said Torres.

Yet despite all these projects, Torres said there are not enough construction workers in the CNMI, which is why it's necessary to see how can NMTI partner up with construction companies. Though he isn't sure that NMTI has instructors who have the special skills for construction, he knows that Valentino is an expert in construction and will pass the knowledge along.

"I know that the board has some experiences, so I am optimistic that if they feel that they believe it's important for the CNMI that if we don't have the right instructors, I'm certain that they will bring in the right instructors to teach our folks here and make sure that the foundation of NMTI is done right," said Torres.

Also speaking at NMTI's first board of trustees meeting, Torres said he is excited to work with the board of trustees moving forward and assured that the administration's priority for the instructors and students is to make sure NMTI will be successful.

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2017 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER 4WD
SALE PRICE $69,995 | 28,046 MILES STK:17P310 KBB: $72,425

2017 TOYOTA YARIS HATCHBACK
SALE PRICE $11,995
24,305 MILES • STK:17BC53703 • KBB: $12,676

2017 MAZDA MAZDA6 GT
SALE PRICE $15,995
44,751 MILES • STK:17P305 • KBB: $17,242

2019 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SE
SALE PRICE $18,995
11,486 MILES • STK:19HS967 • KBB: $19,633

2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
SALE PRICE $13,995
38,494 MILES • STK:7R235 • KBB: $16,146

2019 HYUNDAI KONA 2WD
SALE PRICE $16,995
11,761 MILES • STK:19HS962 • KBB: $18,793

2019 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER SE
SALE PRICE $18,995
11,386 MILES • STK:19HS968 • KBB: $19,682

2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
SALE PRICE $13,995
34,789 MILES • STK:7R218 • KBB: $15,129

2017 MAZDA CX-3 GT AWD
SALE PRICE $16,995
18,475 MILES • STK: 7P295 • KBB: $18,470

2018 HONDA CIVIC EXT
SALE PRICE $18,995
9,993 MILES • STK:18HS935 • KBB: $22,425

2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C
SALE PRICE $14,995
48,814 MILES • STK:20D134A • KBB: $16,585

2018 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT
SALE PRICE $16,995
7,365 MILES • STK:18HS965C • KBB: $22,095

2015 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LE
SALE PRICE $18,995
62,811 MILES • STK:5HS735A • KBB: $19,031

2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER
SALE PRICE $14,995
39,217MILES • STK: 20H068–A • KBB: $15,830

2019 HYUNDAI KONA
SALE PRICE $16,995
11,601 MILES • STK:19HS999 • KBB: $18,793

2013 TOYOTA TACOMA SR 4WD
SALE PRICE $23,995
130,884 MILES • STK:3P294 • KBB: $24,581

2018 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT
SALE PRICE $14,995
7,910 MILES • STK:8HS875 • KBB: $19,496

2018 HONDA CIVIC EXT
SALE PRICE $17,995
10,640 MILES • STK:18HS946 • KBB: $20,609

2019 MAZDA CX-5 GT AWD
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8,214 MILES • STK:19P299 • KBB: $28,460

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IPI terminates all employee benefits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC terminated yesterday all employee benefits, citing severe budgetary constraints.

In an internal memorandum issued Tuesday, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, IPI chief executive officer Ray N. Yumul said the company has regrettably decided to terminate all employees' benefits including paid time off, sick leave, bereavement leave, home leaves, relocation reimbursements, post assignment tickets, and health insurance coverage where applicable, as directed by their board of directors.

He said the termination of benefits shall be effective 30 days from Tuesday, March 9.

When asked yesterday as to how many employees will be affected, Yumul said he will try to get a head count.

The House Committee on Gaming, chaired by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), recently agreed to conduct an oversight investigation into the governance, financial suitability, and compliance failures affecting IPI.

WEARY

From Page 1

Carolina mother who struggled to keep her business and her family going amid rising anti-Asian ugliness. Not the sixth-grader, exiled from the classroom in the blink of an eye.

It happened a year ago. "I expected to go back after that week," said Darelyn Maldonado, now 12. "I didn't think that it would take years."

On March 11, 2020, when the World Health Organization declared a pandemic, few could foresee the long road ahead or the many ways in which they would suffer—the deaths and agonies of millions, the ruined economies, the disrupted lives and near-universal loneliness and isolation.

A year later, some are dreaming of a return to normal, thanks to vaccines that seemed to materialize as if by magic. Others live in places where the magic seems to be reserved for wealthier worlds.

At the same time, people are looking back at where they were when they first understood how drastically life would change.

On March 11, 2020, confirmed cases of COVID-19 stood at 125,000, and reported deaths stood at fewer than 5,000. Today, 117 million people are confirmed to have been infected, and according to Johns Hopkins, more than 2.6 million people have died.

On that day, Italy closed shops and restaurants after locking down in the face of 10,000 reported infections. The NBA suspended its season, and Tom Hanks, filming a movie in Australia, announced he was infected.

On that evening, President Donald Trump addressed the nation from the Oval Office, announcing restrictions on travel from Europe that set off a trans-Atlantic scramble. Airports flooded with unmasked crowds in the days that followed. Soon, they were empty.

And that, for much of the world, was just the beginning.

■■■

Today, thanks to her vaccination, Maggie Sedidi is optimistic: "By next year, or maybe the year after, I really do hope that people will be able to begin returning to normal life."

But it is a hard-earned optimism. Sedidi, a 59-year-old nurse at Soweto's Chris Hani Baragwanath hospital, the largest hospital in South Africa and the entire continent, recalls she was devastated when the first cases appeared there last March.

And she recalls being terrified when she got COVID-19. Her manager fell ill at the same time and died.

South Africa has had by far Africa's worst experience with the virus. The country of 60 million people has had more than 1.5 million confirmed cases, including more than 50,000 deaths.

"You can imagine, I was really, really frightened. I had all the symptoms. except dying," she said, with a survivor's grim smile. Her recuperation period was lengthy.

"I had shortness of breath and tightness of the chest. It lasted for six months," she said. "I didn't think it would ever go away."

But she mended, and she's back at work in the surgical ward. Others have not been so lucky. In the United States—the world's most COVID-wracked country—29 million have been infected, and 527,000 have died.

Latoria Glenn-Carr and her wife of six years, Tyeisha, were diagnosed at a hospital emergency room near their home outside Detroit on Oct. 29. Despite Latoria's qualms, they were sent home.

Tyeisha, 43, died in bed next to her wife three days later.

"I woke up on Sunday, and I didn't feel a pulse," Glenn-Carr said.

One month later, COVID killed Glenn-Carr's mother, too.

In quiet times, in prayer, Glenn-Carr thinks she should have pushed for the hospital to keep Tyeisha, or should have taken her to a different hospital. She is also angry at America's political leaders—in particular, Trump, who she believes was more worried about the economy than people's lives.

"If he was more empathetic to the issues and concerned about people, in general, he would have taken it more seriously," she said. "And because of that, 500,000 people are dead."

She joined a survivor's group for people who lost loved ones to COVID. They meet weekly on Zoom, text each other and help with the grieving process. Glenn-Carr knows she will dread birthdays and Mother's Days that will go uncelebrated.

"Nothing goes back to the way it was" she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TRUCK

From Page 1

ment was provided at the scene for medical complaints in relation to the fire.

The DFEMS statement said it was a firefighter assigned to the COVID-19 Task Force that called 911 at 11:04am to report the fire. Soon after, a fire engine and a DFEMS ambulance from the Garapan Fire Station were dispatched to the location at 11:07am. The fire engine arrived at the scene at 11:12am and was able to put out the flames by 11:17am.

Preliminary scene investigation by the DFEMS' Division of Arson Investigation revealed the fire originated in the car's engine compartment. The cause of the fire is still unknown and is still being processed.

PETER

From Page 1

tisia for a six-year term and has set her sights on not just closing several pending audit cases but also for the audit process itself to go digital.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho administered the oath of office for Peter, who succeeds Mike Pai as head of the Office of the Public Auditor.

Peter passed the House of Representatives confirmation process in Dec. 22, 2020, with no objection, with only one senator voted no to her nomination last Jan. 8.

In an interview after being sworn in, Peter said she has been working with her team since January, soon after securing the position, to review all pending cases/audits and looking at the digitalization of audits. Peter said that since the CNMI Department of Finance kicked off its financial management system project, she has been talking with the project manager to see how they can go from hard copies of audits to digital copies.

"We're in the process of getting more information from them to give us an idea of which system would be appropriate for our office. …We're definitely moving forward in terms of assessing the appropriate software system for us to utilize," said Peter.

With the transfer to digital audits, Peter said she is also looking at enhancing the OPA's website.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Peters is interested in going digital to boost OPA's efficiency and productivity.

Peter is a former senior finance leader, senior accountant, senior manager, and accounting manager for Boeing Co.

As the first female public auditor of the CNMI, Peter encourages women to be leaders for the younger generation.

"Leadership is a choice and a commitment to constantly make positive changes. …It's really on the leaders to take on the task to encourage and really work with their team members to grow and…be better visionaries," said Peter.

Peter is married to former representative Marco T. Peter; they have two daughters.

LRC hosts seal design contest

The Commonwealth Law Revision Commission is hosting a "Seal Design Contest" to create an official seal for LRC that incorporates iconic symbols of the CNMI. The contest is open to the public for ages 10-18 in the CNMI. The prize is $300 cash for the winning participant. LRC members and its staff's immediate family members are not eligible to participate.

Seal designs must be original and incorporate the text "Commonwealth Law Revision Commission," must include symbols and/or images of the latte stone, Carolinian *mwaar*, books(s), and designs must be handdrawn or digitally created and should be submitted on letter-size (8.5 x 11 in.) paper of sufficient quality.

Submit entries with the completed Terms and Conditions Form to the Law Revision Commission, physically or electronically by 5pm of Thursday, April 1, 2021.

You can submit the required documents by the deadline physically to the Commonwealth Law Revision Office, JCT Building II unit 6, between 8am and 12noon and 1pm and 5pm, Tuesday to Friday, except holidays.

You can submit the required documents by the deadline electronically to the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission at CNMILAW@NMI-Judiciary.com

For more information on the rules and submission requirements, visit the LRC website https://cnmilaw.org, or you can call, email, and like their page on Facebook. ***(Neil Fama)***

STUDENT

From Page 1

communities the ability to read.

"I imagine that the Bible will probably be the first thing printed in Chamorro/Carolinian Braille, but it can also be used to let blind people navigate the internet, write things down, and even send text messages," he said.

Despite having never been to Guam nor the Northern Mariana Islands, or even meeting anyone from Guam or the CNMI, Mowbray said he was able to research everything he needed to know about the history, culture, and languages of the islands from Wikipedia. After his experience with the project, Mowbray said he certainly wants to visit the CNMI and Guam when it's already safe to travel.

Mowbray taught himself programming and linguistics when he was in high school, motivated in large part by his personal interest. Yet despite not having any formal education or work experience in linguistics, Mowbray was hired to use programming to help a Native American tribe revitalize their endangered language so that everyone in the community could learn the language. To do this, Mowbray learned how to read Braille and developed a way on how to write their alphabet in Braille, so that the blind can read. It took Mowbray a couple of months before he fully understood how many other languages need Braille standards and lack them, including languages with tens of millions of speakers.

In less than two months, Mowbray managed to create about 40 Braille alphabets for smaller languages around the world and tried to reach out to the speaker community to get them to adopt it.

"It's extremely hard to reach the people in charge and advance through the bureaucracy of a foreign country. So far, five to six languages have accepted my Braille proposals so far, but they are all very small, although much larger languages are in the process of considering my Braille proposals," said Mowbray.

He then systematically searched the internet for languages that contain rare characters (such as Chamorro's "å" and Carolinian's "è") and that led him to the indigenous languages of the CNMI and Guam, with the goal of developing Braille standards if they don't exist yet.

Mowbray said his goal is simply to help as many people around the world as possible through this project. He also said he earns no money from this project but also it doesn't cost him anything to do.

"I just want to use my skills to improve the world [by] assisting minority language communities as well as visually-impaired individuals," Mowbray said.

He is far from being done, though. Mowbray said he needs the help of authorities who "regulate" the Chamorro and Carolinian languages to approve the standards so that Braille books can begin to be printed. He said this does not require funding; he just needs the help of these language experts to recommend or make any changes in the books beforehand. He is confident, though, his proposals are very good and were created in a logical way.

Mowbray said that he made Chamorro and Carolinian Braille around a week and a half ago. It took him under 20 minutes to complete both of them.

"I am pretty experienced at making Braille alphabets at this point and I have a program that helps me, which speed things up," said Mowbray, "I have been making Braille alphabets since mid-January. I made my first three Braille standards in November/December but I hadn't realized the potential scale of the project at that point and I was very slow at it."

He said nobody else is involved in his project other than himself. "I just want the government and language authorities to go over my project and approve it, ideally very quickly because it's not that complicated and it would be best to start using it as soon as possible," he said. "I hope that the Chamorro and Carolinian communities accept my project and start using it. …I have other ideas [that] I believe can help these two languages, which I would like to discuss with the language authorities in order to help the language. I also want to spread this project to cover more languages in the Pacific such as Marshallese and Nauruan," said Mowbray.

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Coast Guard accepts Guam's third fast response cutter

The U.S. Coast Guard accepts delivery of its newest Sentinel-class fast response cutter, the *Frederick Hatch*, from Bollinger Shipyards in Key West, Florida, last Feb. 10, 2021.

U.S. COAST GUARD/ENSIGN ALEXANDRA HUGHES

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard has accepted delivery of its newest Sentinel-class fast response cutter, the *Frederick Hatch*, from Bollinger Shipyards in Key West, Florida.

Frederick Hatch will be the third FRC stationed in Guam and will arrive in Santa Rita this summer. The cutter was placed in commission, special status, and will remain in Florida while the crew completes pre-commissioning trials and maintenance.

"The fast response cutters in the Pacific are a game changer for the Coast Guard," said Cmdr. Josh Empen, deputy sector commander, Coast Guard Sector Guam. "*Frederick Hatch* will be the third fast response cutter in Guam, joining the Coast Guard cutters *Myrtle Hazard*…and *Oliver Henry*…who have already saved mariners in distress at sea, intercepted narcotics, and boarded several vessels to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in Oceania. These cutters are conducting longer missions over greater distances than the older patrol boats they are replacing."

Replacing the older 110-foot Island-class patrol boats formerly stationed in Guam, the *Frederick Hatch* represents the Coast Guard's commitment to modernizing the service's cutter fleet.

FRCs boast a wide array of improvements over its predecessors including advanced command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems designed to assist the cutter's crew with their primary mission to patrol coastal regions.

These advanced capabilities greatly improve the Coast Guard's ability to conduct missions ranging from Search and Rescue to national defense within Guam's waters while also contributing to joint operations between the United States and its regional partners as they work towards common goals such as the preservation of Pacific fish stocks.

"All of our accomplishments to date are due to the tremendous amount of hard work our crew has put in to this process," said the Lt. Craig Rooke, the *Frederick Hatch*'s commanding officer. "They continue to amaze me everyday with their great attitude and their tremendous effort that they have been putting into the pre-commission process. I know Frederick Hatch would be proud."

In keeping with the tradition of naming new FRCs after Coast Guard enlisted heroes, the cutter is named in honor of Frederick Hatch, a two-time recipient of the Gold Lifesaving Medal.

Hatch was awarded his first medal in 1884 while he was a surfman at the Cleveland Life-Saving Station for rescuing the crew of the schooner *Sophia Minch* during an October gale. During the rescue, Hatch volunteered to attempt to reach two men caught in the aft rigging of the vessel. At great risk to his own life he reached the two men and was able to bring them safely to shore.

Later Hatch transferred to the Lighthouse Service where once again he received the Gold Lifesaving Medal for his selfless act of courage as he rescued those on board the schooner *Wahnapitae*, which grounded near the Cleveland Breakwater lighthouse in 1890.

Both the Lighthouse Service and the Life-Saving Service would later make up what we now know as the Coast Guard.

With the addition of *Frederick Hatch*'s 24-person crew there will be over 70 new Coast Guard FRC members stationed in Guam, along with a projected 100 dependents and family members. Before the FRCs arrival, the Coast Guard presence in Guam was composed of approximately 250 active duty personnel and 40 reservists. ***(USCG)***

'All United passengers are accommodated in quarantine'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez said they are working to make sure that passengers on any additional United Airlines flight would be accommodated in quarantine sites.

Since United started operating the Guam-Saipan service thrice a week last May 2, 2020, they are doing all that's needed to make sure that all passengers on these flights will be accommodated in quarantine, according to Villagomez during a radio news briefing last March 8. It was earlier reported that United Airlines was adding another Guam-Saipan flight.

"The additional flight that United added last Friday is active and we are in close coordination, making sure that the additional flight would be able to be accommodated at the government quarantine sites," said Villagomez.

Besides the first and fifth-day testing, one of the protocols for arrivals into the CNMI is that passengers must go through a mandatory five-day quarantine. The designated quarantine sites are the Kanoa Resort in Susupe and the former Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi.

Though the CNMI has already gone 200 days with no community transmission, Villagomez still encourages the community to continue practicing wearing a mask, social distancing, and washing one's hands.

"As we fight this battle… the numbers that are coming out are very great," said Villagomez, citing the increasing number of vaccinated people in the CNMI. "The projection…is looking very positive [and] things could be improving here in the CNMI."

Villagomez assured that protocols have not been eased as they continue to bring normalcy to the CNMI.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD21-ITB-022

SUBMISSION DATE: March 19, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Procurement of Services for Removal, Packaging, Containment, and Shipping of Hazardous E-Waste Materials collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **March 16, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Solid Waste Management Division Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 23, 2021** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division**, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2726. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 8am*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (02/10/2021)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
A. Propose amendments to the Pharmacy regulation
VII. Director's Report
A. Update on the amendment to P.L. 15-105 – Removal of Limited Terms for HCPLB
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
A. Opioid Bills
1. SB 21 – Medical Assistance
2. SB 21 – Good Samaritan Act
3. SB 21 – CNMI Drug Overdose Policy
B. § 140-50.3-4700 – Psychology
C. § 140-50.3-4900 – Addiction Professionals
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
1. Gail Labatete - SCW
B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-MHC-052

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 12, 2021 • TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"IN-DOOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE, EXHIBIT MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT, OUTDOOR BUILDING, AND GROUND MAINTENANCE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND CULTURE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MR. JAMES MACARANAS**, VIA E-MAIL AT cnmimuseum2017@gmail.com **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, MARCH 29, 2021.** ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DANNY AQUINO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MHC

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Kilili: House prepares final push for $1.9T American Rescue Plan

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House of Representatives will vote Wednesday (Thursday in the CNMI) on final approval of the American Rescue Plan Act, the $1.9-trillion bill put forward by President Joe Biden and Democrats in Congress to address the continuing economic and health crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"The Senate amended the Rescue Plan in a 'vote-a-rama' over the weekend," Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) explained, "and now the House must vote to agree those changes and send the bill to the President."

Provisions of the American Rescue Plan of most concern to people in the Marianas were untouched in the final Senate bill, Sablan said.

Republicans did offer an amendment to reduce the amount for the Commonwealth government from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund. The money is to make up for lost revenues. The Republican amendment would have cut the Commonwealth share of fiscal relief from $483 million to $138 million, a 72% reduction.

Senate Democrats beat back the amendment and added to the acceptable uses for the half-billion dollars. The money may now be spent for investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure, in addition to providing assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits affected by the pandemic, or to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.

The American Rescue Plan also includes about $160 million for the Public School System, which should ensure teachers and staff are paid and Marianas schools remain open. And there is $30 million for the Marianas Nutrition Assistance Program.

The legislation extends federal unemployment assistance through August. And individual taxpayers with income below $75,000 will receive an additional $1,400 tax rebate; those married and filing jointly with income below $150,000 will receive $2,800. Another $1,400 is available for each dependent child.

In addition, the Child Tax Credit for families is raised and made monthly; and the Earned Income Tax Credit in the Marianas will permanently be paid by the federal government.

No Republican voted for the American Rescue Plan in the House or the Senate. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Temporary closures at Micro Beach Coral Loop Road

The Coral Loop Road at Micro Beach will be temporarily closed starting March 14 at 2am as part of a project to pave a portion of this road. Work is expected to last one to two days and sections will be reopened as work progresses. During this time the road will be closed to vehicular traffic and the Micro Beach restrooms will be accessible on foot only. ***(NPS)***

CHamoru commission meeting set

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its second March monthly Virtual meeting on March 18, 2021, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm via Zoom. Email Kumisión board secretary Rosa Salas Palomo for the Zoom link information, special accommodations and agenda at (kailee.rosapalomo@gmail.com) and/or administrator Anna Marie B. Acreo at (sainaguinifi@gmail.com). ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21-027

Opening Date: March 05, 2021
Closing Date: March 25, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	Trades Technician-Electrician
DEPARTMENT:	Power Generation
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	$21, 902.40 to $28, 115.00 per annum, Non- Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	Four (4)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Generation. Primary duties as a TRADES TECHNICIAN: ELECTRICIAN for a diesel engine power plant.

Duties:
- Performs maintenance, operations, installations, troubleshooting and/or repairs of Generator, switchgears and engine control panels of various brands/make/model, Motor Control Center, Transformer, Protection relays and overhead crane
- Read and interpret electrical diagrams and codes. USA standards, Japanese standards, European standards, & NEC (National Electrical Code).
- Knowledge in AC / DC system, Single and three phase system, Lighting and outlets, Paging System, Fire Alarm, & Battery Bank.
- Familiarize with the usage of various electrical test equipment; Multimeter tester, Insulation resistance tester, Transformer tester, Ground resistance tester, & Hydrometer.
- Familiarize with the usage of various electrical tools Crimper, Pipe bender, Hydraulic knock out puncher, Pipe threader, Micrometer, & Vernier caliper.
- Familiarize with the usage of various power and pneumatic tools Portable drill, Grinder, & Impact wrench.
- Operates specialized and heavy equipment. Emergency generator, Forklift, & Overhead crane.
- Attend to Trouble calls after normal working hours.
- Maintains of daily reports. Practices SAFETY. Cleans, organizes

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Graduate from a Vocational/Technical Institution as an Electrician or related field. Must demonstrate having had: 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant. 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in performing electrical duties.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Mechanical and electrical principles, practices and operations of power plant equipment. Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Performing inspections and analyzing system and equipment data; Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standard operating procedures; Monitoring plant equipment and making adjustments; Identifying electrical and mechanical issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Initiating requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift and carry heavy objects of 45 pounds and over, climb ladders, reach above the shoulders, stand, sit, crawl and kneel for prolonged periods and perform repeated bending. Recognize color codes, operate cranes and motor vehicles. Occasionally use solvents, de-greasing agents, or other chemical agents, and be assigned to protracted or irregular hours of work; exposed to dust, oil, grease, constant or excessive noise, vibration, and smoke and gas fumes. Work closely with others and/or alone depending on assigned daily activities.

Must be available to work a 24/7 rotation shift to include weekends, holidays and on-call.

Applicants may be tested. Subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

The world needs religious leaders preaching peace in places of war

On Friday, Pope Francis did something entirely new: he became the first leader of the Roman Catholic Church ever to visit Iraq. And he did so with a message as old as humanity itself: We are all connected. We join millions in hoping the new platform in the cradle of civilization gives fresh urgency to his message of civility.

The pope visited the ancient city of Ur on Saturday, the birthplace of Abraham, and thus a fitting place to remind the world of our commonality. Abraham, of course, is revered by Jews, Christians and Muslims alike. In visiting Ur, Francis chose to symbolically return to a time before any of those three religions existed, a time that seems closer to the creation of humans in the image of God than to the despotic rule, war and extremism that have ravaged Iraq in recent decades.

Let's not forget that Mosul, which the pope visited on Sunday, was ever-so-recently controlled by the murderous Islamic State. To see the white-robed pontiff walk the streets once under ISIS control and preach peace and unity of all mankind was a stark counter to violent extremists who intended to extend oppression from there.

Francis' own religion is shrinking in Iraq. Almost 1 million Christians have fled since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, according to The New York Times. Another 500,000 have stayed. But the congregation of people who want peace is always larger than it seems. The crowds following Francis revealed as much.

As a motto for this first papal outing since the pandemic began, the Vatican has chosen a snippet of a verse from Matthew's gospel. "You are all brothers," Jesus told his followers. There are lessons for all our faiths in that passage. In the same breath, Jesus instructed his followers not to exalt religious leaders. He condemned hypocrisy. He warned against empty ritualism and blind adherence to religious law. And he admonished us all to pursue our faith with humility. These are messages that could contribute to peace in any land, not least an ancient one where religious strife has brought much suffering.

It's worth noting that such a trip was not possible to imagine before Saddam Hussein was removed from power, and it shows that even while tyranny never seems far off, the people of Iraq are in the midst of a grand struggle of building a democracy as a counterweight to autocracy.

From our seat half a world away, Francis' visit to Iraq seems rich in symbolism, wisdom, relevance and courage. The world needs religious leaders who visit war-torn lands and promote peace. And we'll add that we need the same in the strife-torn neighborhoods and news feeds here at home.

Perhaps the pope's "You are all brothers" message can point all of us—from Mesopotamia to Midlothian—toward another of the world's great theologians: Bono of the rock band U2, whose 2014 album "Songs of Innocence" repeats this proverb seven times:

There is no them.

There is only us.

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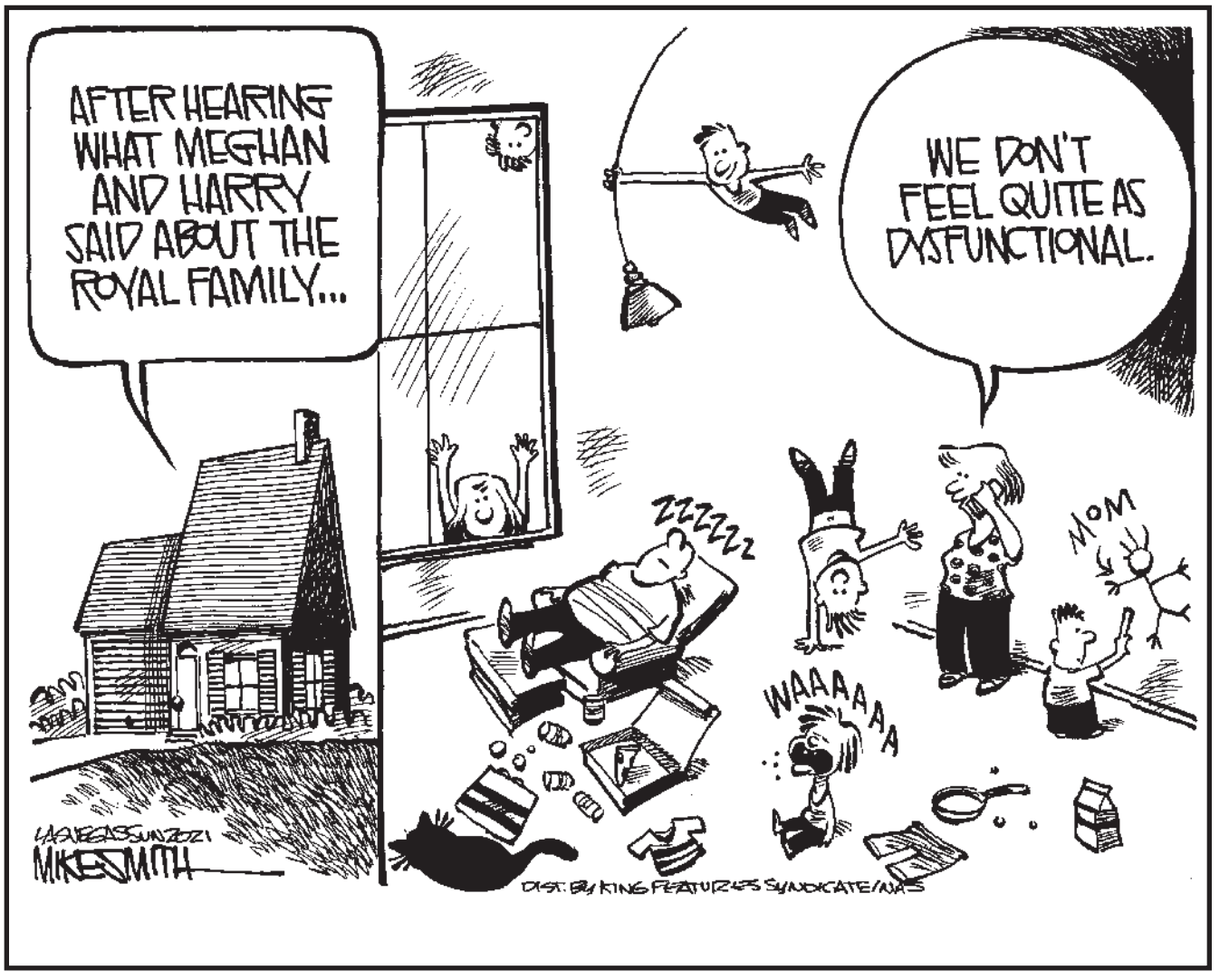


The 'Fight of the Century' at 50

By WILLIAM J. THOMPSON
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Monday marked the 50th anniversary of perhaps the greatest sporting event of my lifetime, and one of the most significant of the 20th century: the so-named "Fight of the Century" between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier on March 8, 1971, at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Both boxers were undefeated, with a combined record of 57-0 (Ali, 31; Frazier, 26), with 48 knockouts (Ali, 25; Frazier. 23). Each fighter was guaranteed $2.5 million ($16 million today). The similarities of each man's boxing record belied the differences between them, and how each was perceived in American society.

Muhammad Ali, born Cassius Clay in Louisville, Kentucky, won a surprise victory over Sonny Liston, the reigning heavyweight champion in 1964. Afterward, Clay announced his membership in the Nation of Islam and took the name Muhammad Ali. Defending his boxing crown (and with the Vietnam War escalating), Ali was reclassified by the U.S. government to eligible draft status, and in April 1967, refused induction based on his religion. He was stripped of his heavyweight crown and banned from boxing; Ali appealed the draft evasion conviction and spent the prime years of his career out of boxing (the Supreme Court would rule in favor of Ali in June 1971, stating that the government failed to specify why his objection was denied).

Joe Frazier, born on a farm in South Carolina, moved to Philadelphia as a teen and took up boxing. After turning professional, and rising in the heavyweight division, Frazier, after Ali's banishment, defeated Buster Mathis and Jimmy Ellis to gain the undisputed crown going into the Garden match.

The Ali/Frazier fight was more than about two legendary boxers. It was a culture clash, fought in the shadow of Vietnam and anti-war movement, as well as the civil rights movement, with Americans choosing between more than two boxers; but between two concepts of America: Ali, refusing draft induction; a proud Black man who changed his name and embraced a religious group perceived as hostile to white people. Frazier, whose life mirrored many African Americans born in the Deep South, was apolitical, did not evade the draft, did not belong to the Nation of Islam, nor engaged in braggadocio; thus to many white Americans, he was everything Ali was not.

That was the case in my family, as especially the draft issue, made them opposed to Ali. I was an eighth-grader in middle school, and the talk in class and at lunch centered on the fight in the days leading up to March 8, and my sympathies—reflecting my family—were also with Frazier.

Madison Square Garden, all 20,455 seats filled, became the center of the sports world. Ringside seats cost $150 ($968 in 2021 dollars). An overflow crowd of 6,500 watched closed circuit at Radio City Music Hall. An estimated 300 million people worldwide watched the fight. Celebrities were everywhere: Woody Allen, Sammy Davis Jr., Bing Crosby (at Radio City) and Frank Sinatra (unable to get a ringside seat, he was hired as a photographer by Life magazine). Former heavyweight champions Jack Dempsey and Joe Louis were there. Howard Cosell, Ali's foil in TV interviews (but strong supporter), was not on the telecast, but was in attendance.

While most sporting events rarely equal their hype beforehand, the "Fight of the Century," more than lived up to expectations, as the fight went the full 15 rounds. Ali seemed ahead in the early rounds; but by Round 6 and later, Frazier began taking advantage of his strong left hook, which hit Ali's jaw on more than one occasion. In the final round, Frazier uncorked a left hook, sending Ali to the canvas. The three judges, including referee Arthur Mercante Sr., awarded a unanimous decision to Frazier, who retained the heavyweight crown and handed Ali his first professional boxing defeat.

Ali and Frazier fought twice more (including the brutal "Thrilla in Manila"). Frazier lost his title in 1973; Ali won back the heavyweight belt the following year and regained it a third time in 1978. By the mid-1980s, both men were retired from boxing. Frazier died in 2011 and Ali in 2016, having never fully reconciled from the often bitter confrontations surrounding their epic bouts.

My respect for Joe Frazier endured. But as the years passed, my view of Muhammad Ali changed, as I came to respect his decision to refuse induction and, as a historian, his larger-than-life impact on American sports and society in the 20th century.

Boxing today, as in times past, is rife with corruption and bad characters, and the sport has declined in popularity, with many urging its abolishment. Regardless, there will likely never be another boxing match, possibly even another singular sporting event (including a Super Bowl or World Cup) that transfixed America and the world as the "Fight of the Century" did half a century ago.

William J. Thompson is a Baltimore historian, teacher and writer. His email is historybill@verizon.net.

What a Woody Allen reckoning can teach us about Lincoln statues, Dr. Seuss and the British royal family

By HEIDI STEVENS
Chicago Tribune

Contact Heidi Stevens at hstevens@chicagotribune.com, or on Twitter: @heidistevens13.

Ginia Bellafante, a columnist at The New York Times, wrote an essay Friday that strikes me as an instructive approach to the national dialogue around everything from Dr. Seuss to Lincoln statues to the British royals.

The essay, "Why My Teenage Self Gave Woody Allen a Pass," focuses on "Manhattan," which Bellafante says she adored and watched more times than she can count after its 1979 debut in theaters.

"The early 1980s marked both the period of my adolescent hunger for an urbane, grown-up life in New York and the dawn of VHS, enabling the obsessive consumption of movies, which in my case meant the obsessive consumption of movies by Woody Allen," she writes. "In them, I found a vision of the future I wanted, a series of aspirations—to have opinions, to write, to go to book parties but also to make fun of people who approached those things too seriously. The hope was to inhabit the world the way Woody Allen did, as both conspirator and judge."

It didn't occur to her, she writes, that "Manhattan," a comedy about a 42-year-old man (Isaac Davis, played by Allen) sleeping with a 17-year-old girl (Tracy—no last name—played by 16-year-old Mariel Hemingway) was not a love story. And no adults in Bellafante's life (or co-starring in "Manhattan") raised an eyebrow either.

"Isaac is presented as a man of unimpeachable character because he dislikes crass commercialism, narcotics, and infidelity," Bellafante writes.

"Allen v. Farrow," a new four-part HBO documentary series that examines Dylan Farrow's sexual abuse accusations against Allen, caused Bellafante to rewatch "Manhattan."

"For all of its visual beauty and brilliant writing, the movie is a shell game in the end," she writes. "Look over there, the director is telling us—it's pretension and quaaludes and bad sitcoms that are really the problem."

And for decades, a sizable chunk of the public, coached and coddled by some complicit media, played along. In the early '90s, Bellafante writes, after Jerry Seinfeld started dating a woman he met in Central Park while she was a high school senior, he took some ribbing. "But a year later," she writes, "People magazine, as if clearing up a misunderstanding, featured the pair on the cover under the headline: 'Look Who's in Love: Jerry Seinfeld, 39, and Shoshanna Lonstein, 18, make an unlikely romance work.'"

Here's the thing:

"If an image like that is unthinkable today," Bellafante writes, "it is because young women have demanded that we stop normalizing exploitive relationships where my own generation could not."

It is undeniable progress when we start to examine the books and movies and other works of art we collectively digest, the statues that dot our public lands, the names of schools that educate our children through more than one lens. Through not just the lens of the creator at the time of creation, or the group with the most power or the group with the loudest voices. But through the lens, also, of the people affected—and too often harmed—by the thing we're discussing.

It shouldn't be up to Woody Allen to tell us whether it's predatory or perfectly fine for a 42-year-old man to date a teenager. The feelings and fates and health of teenagers have to inform our willingness to embrace or reject that storyline—fictional or otherwise. That requires listening to teenagers.

When Meghan Markle and Prince Harry tell Oprah Winfrey about the racism (including concerns within the royal family about how dark their son's skin might be), that informs our understanding of the British monarchy as more than a fluffy pastime filling our airtime and tabloids. Just as Netflix's "The Crown" has informed people's understanding of what life was like for the late Princess Diana.

When the Chicago Monuments Project examines Abraham Lincoln's treatment of Native Americans; when the Agassiz Elementary School community interrogates and rejects the false, harmful teachings of its namesake; when Turner Classic Movies introduces a series dealing with stereotypes and harmful tropes in classic films; when Dr. Seuss Enterprises reckons with the beloved author's portrayal of nonwhite characters, that is progress.

More lenses get us closer to the truth. More lenses broaden and deepen our understanding of who we are and who we want to become; who's been heard and who's been harmed.

Rounding up and eliminating the remnants of all that harm isn't always the answer. A college professor showed us D.W. Griffith's 1915 "Birth of a Nation" during a lesson on racist propaganda, and viewing it likely provided a more powerful lesson than reading about it. The Chicago Monuments Project may decide to add plaques or parallel installations for many of the pieces they're examining. Bellafante's newly formed thoughts about "Manhattan" were surely helped along by her ability to find and rewatch it.

We ought to, I think, consider the future of cultural touchstones individually, as they're raised. I'm all for removing Louis Agassiz's name from an elementary school, for example, because I don't think children should be asked to learn and explore and problem solve under the heading of man whose teachings were racist, flawed and harmful.

It's slow, important work and it won't be linear. But I'm grateful we're embarking on it. We are and will continue to be better for it.

As Bellafante wrote of "Manhattan," "It is not simply that so many of us were so besotted with the film for so long; it's that we were perfectly content to look and see virtue."

It's a welcome evolution—a necessary one, even—to revisit the things and the people and the virtues held dear by tastemakers whose tastes weren't shared, or informed by, the people they harmed.

An admiral and a novelist want you to imagine a nuclear war with China

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

How do nations sleepwalk into war? Often through lack of imagination.

That is the thesis that impelled Adm. James Stavridis, a former NATO supreme commander, and Elliot Ackerman, a prominent fiction writer and decorated Marine veteran, to write "2034: A Novel of the Next World War."

The new novel envisions how the United States and China could blunder into a nuclear conflict, propelled by Chinese nationalism, American hubris, and a U.S. failure to grasp the extent of Chinese advances in cyberwarfare.

At a time when the world is changing with a rapidity few of us foresaw—including a pandemic and U.S. internal conflicts—it seems hard to predict what next year will look like.

Yet, as this novel makes clear, it's never been more important for Americans to fully grasp the danger of deteriorating relations between a still powerful USA and a rapidly rising China—a reality often lost in our hyper partisan political debates.

I asked Ackerman, a National Book Award finalist, whose four previous novels draw on his five tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, why he chose fiction to make this case.

"There's this sense that the best way to avoid these conflicts is to imagine them, then see how horrible it would be," he told me. "The last three [major] national security attacks on our country—Pearl Harbor, 9/11, and the pandemic—were all things we failed to imagine."

It's not that military and think tank experts aren't discussing potential military conflicts with China, but Americans haven't thought through the consequences.

"One of the challenges of cyber is that we don't see it," Ackerman continued. "It is easy to fall into complacency because we predict the next war will be decided like the past. It is difficult to imagine a different framework." Case in point: the recent discovery of the massive SolarWinds hack, allegedly by Russia, that penetrated private U.S. companies, the Departments of Treasury and Commerce, probably parts of the Pentagon, and the Department of Homeland Security.

So Ackerman and Stavridis chose to write a character-driven novel that veers between the old American military ethos of the 20th century and the uncertainties of the present. The plot revolves around a female U.S. Navy commodore who miscalculates while conducting a freedom of navigation patrol in the South China Sea, and an American pilot who dreams of emulating the aces of World War II.

It also hones in on Chinese officials who underestimate the consequences of using powerful new cyberweapons to render U.S. ships and planes defenseless. Things escalate from there.

"U.S. dominance in conventional military power is unmatched," Ackerman says. "But in the unseen sphere of cyberdefense and offense the book tries to jolt the reader into the sphere where America is no longer the most dominant. Many Americans walk around with a sense of complacency that isn't merited."

For Stavridis, the book carries on the tradition of the cautionary fiction of post-WWII novels like "Fail Safe" and "On the Beach" that imagined nuclear war with the Soviet Union. But the difference between now and then is that Americans knew what the horrors of nuclear war looked like, after Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That impelled Moscow and Washington to design systems to prevent the next one.

That public awareness is missing when it comes to China, which dwarfs the former Soviet Union in population and power. Beijing is developing new technologies that will make it a peer competitor with the United States in coming decades.

So how to avoid the dire scenario of the novel?

Stavridis cautions: "We have already entered a Cold War setting and the question is how to avoid a hot war. China thinks 50, 100 years ahead. We do high-fives when we think five years ahead."

The United States needs a long-term strategy for China (including improved cyber capabilities), rather than dealing with Beijing episodically, adds Stavridis. Former President Donald Trump "was right to be concerned about China's rise but used pure tactics geared toward electoral advantage."

His advice to the Biden team: "Cooperate where we can, but confront where we must (in coordination with allies). Respect China's place in the international system but don't acquiesce in territorial claims or overrunning Taiwan."

Ackerman, who was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star for valor, has a more personal answer. "I'm drawing these characters from knowledge of the human cost of war," he says. America still has not finished the "late empire wars" he fought in.

The biggest theme of the book, he says, is "We have to avoid this war [with China]. ... We have anesthetized ourselves to war, thinking it won't be that bad and will be over by Christmas. But maybe we don't have the technological dominance."

He hopes the novel will inspire an "act of imagination [that] is a good inoculation to what war would look like."

Amen.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Unanswered question

Thank you and your professional journalists for revealing that the Air Force Divert Facility project for Tinian has been postponed for a year, although it was the worst possible news that the people of Tinian could receive at this time. We had been hoping that construction would begin this year, or very early next year, to provide some cash-flow for our island, and, ultimately, for the CNMI.

The question is: Why did the people of Tinian have to wait so long to find out about the change in status for a military project on our island? The answer to that question is: The governor has refused to implement the Tinian Civilian-Military Advisory Council, as provided for in the Technical Agreement to the Covenant.

The obvious person to comment on this issue is Senate President Jude Hofschneider. He was serving his first term in the Legislature when former Tinian mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz asked then-Gov. Eloy S. Inos to implement the Tinian Civilian-Military Advisory Council. The governor did not respond. Former mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas asked the same question of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who also did not respond. Perhaps it is time for Senate President Hofschneider to ask the governor to implement the Tinian Civilian-Military Advisory Council, with the Mayor of Tinian as its chair.

With the Tinian Civilian-Military Task Force in operation, not only would the people of Tinian get more reliable information about military developments on Tinian, but also have the opportunity to resolve problems between the military and the civilian community on Tinian's military leased lands.

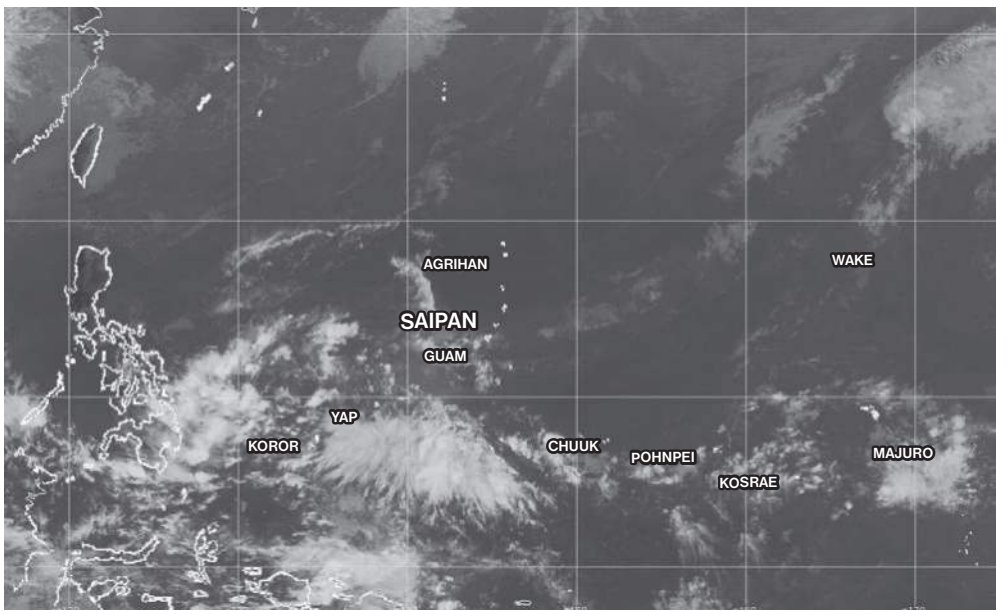
Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:06 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East to northeast winds prevail over the Marianas this morning. Satellite imagery shows a few clouds and showers over the area with the most over Guam.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	84 | 77 °F
Palau	Overcast	86 | 77 °F
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87 | 71 °F
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86 | 80 °F
Pohnpei	Overcast	82 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Rain	87 | 80 °F
Majuro	Clear	84 | 81 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:27 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:57 AM	4:38 PM	-
Friday	5:41 AM	5:31 PM	-
Saturday	6:21 AM	6:21 PM	-
Sunday	6:58 AM	7:10 PM	-
Monday	7:34 AM	7:57 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	70 | 67 °F
Beijing	Clear	61 | 30 °F
Hong Kong	Scattered Clouds	74 | 67 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81 | 68 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	59 | 41 °F
Los Angeles	Clear	86 | 56 °F
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	89 | 72 °F
Melbourne	Clear	88 | 60 °F
Miami	Clear	79 | 67 °F
New York	Clear	56 | 38 °F
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	50 | 42 °F
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	57 | 41 °F
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	45 | 30 °F
Rome	Clear	68 | 44 °F
Salem	Overcast	51 | 48 °F
San Francisco	Clear	49 | 40 °F
Seoul	Scattered Clouds	41 | 26 °F
Tokyo	Clear	51 | 32 °F
Washington, DC	Clear	68 | 43 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:28 AM	High Tide	-0.24
7:29 AM	Low Tide	1.75
1:09 PM	High Tide	0.92
6:10 PM	Low Tide	1.71

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 5, 6
UA117	7:00am	7:40am	4

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1, 5 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 5, 6
UA174	5:15am	5:56am	4

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:55pm	5:56am+1	3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

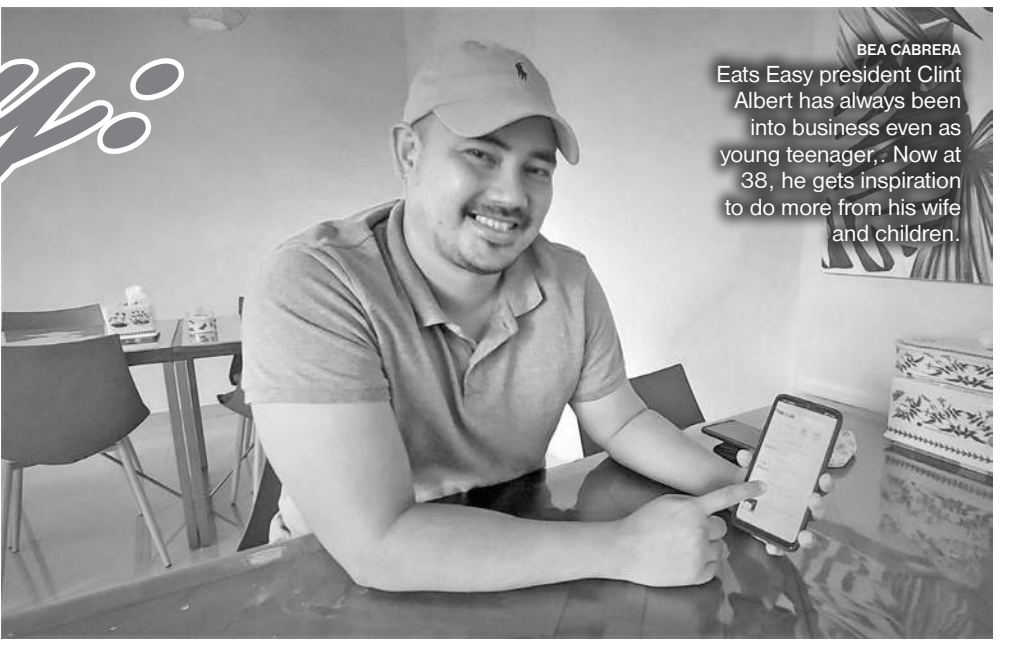
TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Eats Easy:

Taking the job personally



BEA CABRERA
Eats Easy president Clint Albert has always been into business even as young teenager,. Now at 38, he gets inspiration to do more from his wife and children.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

After over a year into business, Eats Easy was awarded the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Start-up of the Year and fittingly so. It is the first and only food delivery service available on Saipan that currently caters to more than 3,800 app users, has serviced close to 18,000 deliveries, and maintains close ties with its over 22 restaurant partners.

Eats Easy has always treated every customer and business deal as personal especially since they deal with customers on a day-to-day basis. "With over 3,800 East Easy app subscribers or 'foodie eyes' we know that we cater to a need and we want to give the best service always… it even comes to a point when our team is already full with deliveries and there is more, I get in a car and help with other deliveries myself," said Eats Easy president Clint Albert.

"…We (the team) are just happy to be alive and working even during a pandemic and we are also taking this time to think bigger things. Honestly, the award from SCC is for our hardworking team members. We are so humbled and privileged to receive it and in all honesty, I don't feel like we are where we want to be so we keep pushing," Albert added.

How did Eats Easy came about? The idea according to Albert also started with a question. "I moved to Saipan for work four years ago and after the first two years, I raised the question 'how come there is no food delivery here?'… Some people will say Saipan is too small to have delivery but I said yes and no. 'Yes,' it's a small place; and 'no' because what if the person is at work and no other way to get food?. Also, even though there is no traffic on Saipan, it still takes time to get your order at the restaurant unless you call ahead," he said.

"Then I thought the biggest challenge probably was there are no street names and numbers so it is hard to find a house. I realized it has to be GPS-based because if it's not, it is not going to work out. When we initially opened, our GPS wasn't too good and encountered some problems but we upgraded right away and it became better," he added.

Expansion is in the midst as they moved to their new office in Garapan and provide space for other business-minded people. "We are developing the building where Victoria Hotel used to be and come April or May, plan to open 'Passion Kitchen' with my partner Michael Sheu. Passion Kitchen is an invitation to people who are passionate about their craft, making it a business but are hesitating because they are scared of putting out capital or expense," Albert said.

"This concept was inspired by people making sushi bake, cookies, cakes, and instead of doing it from your home, Passion Kitchen will provide the kitchen and an opportunity for them to have a wider market. What we will do is we will create the kitchen for at least three tenants–no dine-in, only pick-up or deliver—and contract starts at 6 to 12 months occupancy. We are targeting two partners and later if it makes sense, we are going to add to help more people who want to get into business but do not have a place," Albert added.

Moving along to much greater heights, business partners Albert and Marco Santiago are on the lookout for more Eats Easy restaurant partners with the support of their two off-island partners and will never forget the first partners who believed in food delivery concept in Saipan. "Sunny Side Café, Loco Taco, The Shack, Shirley's Coffee Shop, and Oink for they were here in the beginning… by end of February, we were hitting 80 to 85 calls a day… we know that the numbers can change depending on the need but we are happy with the numbers," he said.

"For those planning to go into business, my advice is don't worry about the final numbers. Figure out first what you want to do and worry about the capital later. A lot of people are scared because they think that they should have at least $20,000 right away…Honestly, we didn't have that kind of money when we started and getting the Start Up Award from the Chamber is kind of a good assurance that we are doing something right," he added.

For more information about Eats East, call (670) 286-0520 and (670) 286-0432 oremail: conquerthehunger@gmail.com.

US airlines adding jobs, extending rebound from October low

U.S. airlines are adding jobs as industry employment extends a rebound from a low in October, when tens of thousands of airline workers were briefly laid off after federal payroll aid expired.

Cargo airlines have added jobs while passenger airlines have shed workers, mostly through incentives for workers to quit or take early retirement.

The Transportation Department said Tuesday that 713,949 people held full-time or part-time jobs at airlines in mid-January, up from 694,638 in December and the low of 673,278 in October.

However, the industry's January employment was still down 5% from January 2020, before the United States felt the brunt of the coronavirus pandemic, which has devastated air travel.

Delta Air Lines has made the sharpest reduction in its work force, cutting nearly 28,000 jobs, or 30.9% of its workers, since January 2020, according to figures reported to the Transportation Department.

United Airlines cut more than 15,000 jobs, or 16.7%, in the 12 months. American Airlines eliminated 8,700 jobs, or 8% of its workers, and Southwest shed more than 4,600 jobs, or 7.5%.

Hawaiian, Republic and JetBlue all reduced their workforces by more than 10%.

Airlines were barred from laying off workers for six months last year as a condition of up to $25 billion in federal payroll assistance. United, American and others furloughed thousands of workers when the aid lapsed in October, but put them back on the payroll after Congress retroactively approved another $25 billion in aid in December.

Legislation pending in Congress would give airlines another $14 billion to cover about 60% of their payroll costs and bar layoffs through September.

The airlines, facing plunging revenue from travel restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of COVID-19, have paid workers bonuses to quit and encouraged others to take unpaid leave.

While passenger airlines have totaled billion in losses during the pandemic, it has been a different story at cargo carriers—good news for their employees.

FedEx's express-delivery division grew by about 24,000 jobs, or 9.8%, United Parcel Service added 183 jobs, or 2.9%, in its air-shipment business, and smaller cargo carriers such as Atlas Air also added jobs, according to the Transportation Department.

Biden's Russia credentials questioned over European pipeline

WASHINGTON (AP)—After years of Democratic accusations that former President Donald Trump was too soft on Russia, the Biden administration is facing Republican criticism of its approach to Moscow.

In particular, Republicans accuse him of not doing enough to halt a gas pipeline to Europe that many believe will give Russia a tool for political influence over energy-dependent Central and East European nations. To make their point, they've delayed confirmation of some of Biden's top national security nominees, including for the CIA and top spots at the State Department.

And, they're planning to grill Secretary of State Antony Blinken on the matter when he testifies before Congress on Wednesday.

The Biden administration rejects the criticism, saying it has been clear about penalties for companies involved in the Nord Stream 2 pipeline and that its goal is to bolster European energy security.

The administration also is weighing punitive measures against Russia for the SolarWinds hacking campaign, in which at least nine federal agencies and 100 private companies were breached, and has imposed sanctions on some Russians over the poisoning and imprisonment of opposition figure Alexei Navalny.

Biden's critics, though, say the Navalny sanctions are largely redundant measures. And, they have become increasingly vocal over his response to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which has not yet included any steps beyond what the Trump administration took in its waning months in office.

"We are deeply concerned that the administration's strong statements in opposition to the pipeline are not being matched by equally strong actions," four senior Republican congressmen said in a letter to Blinken on Monday. The letter was signed by the top GOP member of the House, Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California, and the lead Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas.

On the Senate side, Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Marco Rubio of Florida, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Tom Cotton of Arkansas have all weighed in with similar concerns.

Cruz has slapped a hold on Biden's nominee for CIA director, former career diplomat William Burns, over the matter, and is threatening similar holds on nominations of Wendy Sherman and Brian McKeon to be deputy secretaries of state.

"I'll release my hold when the Biden admin meets its legal obligation to report and sanction the ships and companies building Putin's pipeline," Cruz said on Twitter. "Follow the law. Stop being soft on Russia."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
31,832.74	3,875.44	13,073.82
+.095%	+1.42%	+3.69%
+30.30%	+54.09%	+464.66

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3014	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7629	Russian Ruble	73.2306
British Pound	0.7213	Indian Rupee	72.6044	Singapore Dollar	1.3470
Canadian Dollar	1.2666	Japanese Yen	108.8320	South Korean Won	1120.55
Chinese Yuan	6.4174	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0942	Swiss Franc	0.9299
Euro	0.8419	New Zealand Dollar	1.3992	Taiwan Dollar	27.9197
		Philippine Peso	47.7672	Thailand Baht	30.7610

Nation

At Chauvin trial, some in jury pool have sharp views on case

AP
Protesters march downtown in Minneapolis, Minn., on the first day of the Derek Chauvin trial which began with jury selection, Monday, March 8, 2021.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The long process of jury selection for a former Minneapolis police officer charged in George Floyd's death began Tuesday with three jurors picked and six others in the pool dismissed, including some who said they would not be able to set aside their views on what happened.

One woman who was dismissed said: "I definitely have strong opinions about the case. I think I can try to be impartial—I don't know that I can promise impartiality."

The three jurors who were selected—two men and one woman—all said they had heard some details about the case against Derek Chauvin but would be able to put aside what they heard or opinions they had formed and make a decision based on evidence in court. One of the selected jurors said he hadn't seen the widely-viewed bystander video of Floyd's arrest at all, while the others described seeing it minimally.

One woman who saw the video said she doesn't understand why Chauvin didn't get up when Floyd said he couldn't breathe.

"That's not fair because we are humans, you know?" she said. She too was dismissed.

The exchanges between potential jurors, attorneys and the judge illustrate the challenges in seating a jury in such a well-known case. In addition to asking questions about their ability to keep an open mind, attorneys asked about how they resolve conflicts, their views on the criminal justice system, and whether they felt safe serving on the jury. One potential juror expressed anxiety over the divisiveness of the case, while another feared his family could be targeted; both were dismissed.

Cahill set aside at least three weeks for jury selection. Opening statements are scheduled no sooner than March 29.

Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder and manslaughter in Floyd's death, and jury selection is proceeding despite uncertainty over whether a third-degree murder charge will be added. The state has asked the Minnesota Court of Appeals to stop proceedings until that's resolved, which could mean a delay of weeks or months.

Floyd was declared dead on May 25 after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against the Black man's neck for about nine minutes. Floyd's death sparked sometimes violent protests in Minneapolis and beyond, leading to a nationwide reckoning on race.

Chauvin and three other officers were fired; the others face an August trial on aiding and abetting charges.

The first man who was selected to serve on the jury, a chemist who says he works to find facts and thinks analytically, said he has never watched the video of Floyd's arrest but that he has seen a still image from it. When asked if he could decide the case based on the evidence, he said, "I'd rely on what I hear in court."

The man, whom prosecutors said identifies as white, said he supports the Black Lives Matter movement, but views the organization itself unfavorably. He also has an unfavorable view of the Blue Lives Matter movement. He said everyone should matter the same.

"The whole point of that is that all lives should matter equally, and that should include police," he said.

The races of the second and third jurors selected were not made clear in court.

Volunteers are key at vaccine sites; it pays off with a shot

SEATTLE (AP)—When Seattle's largest health care system got a mandate from Washington state to create a mass COVID-19 vaccination site, organizers knew that gathering enough volunteers would be almost as crucial as the vaccine itself.

"We could not do this without volunteers," said Renee Rassilyer-Bomers, chief quality officer for Swedish Health Services and head of its vaccination site at Seattle University. "The sheer volume and number of folks that we wanted to be able to serve and bring in requires … 320 individuals each day."

As states ramp up vaccination distribution in the fight against the coronavirus, volunteers are needed to do everything from direct traffic to check people in so vaccination sites run smoothly. In return for their work, they're often given a shot. Many people who don't yet qualify for a vaccine—including those who are young and healthy—have been volunteering in hopes of getting a dose they otherwise may not receive for months. Large vaccination clinics across the country have seen thousands trying to nab limited numbers of volunteer shifts.

It's raised questions at a time when supplies are limited and some Americans have struggled to get vaccinated even if they are eligible. But medical ethicists say volunteers are key to the public health effort and there's nothing wrong with them wanting protection from the virus.

Ben Dudden, 35, of Roanoke, Virginia, volunteered at a mass vaccination clinic in the nearby city of Salem on a day off from his part-time job at the Roanoke Pinball Museum. His wife, a nurse practitioner who was administering doses, encouraged him to volunteer in case he could get vaccinated.

He spent that January day helping people fill out questionnaires, not knowing if he might get the coveted dose.

"It wasn't an official thing like, 'Everybody who needs a vaccine come this way.' I kind of had to ask," Dudden said. "At end of day, I found whoever was in charge of that."

He got what he was hoping for and still wants to volunteer again.

"It was a little bit of a selfish thing—'I'm gonna get the vaccine if I do this'—but for me, it wasn't the only factor," Dudden said.

At the Seattle vaccination clinic, Swedish Health Services considers volunteers part of the state's Phase 1 vaccination group. About 5,000 have been inoculated, and about 1,000 of them have come back to work again, Rassilyer-Bomer said.

During their shifts, volunteers are handed colored vests matched to their skill level and experience. The majority wear orange for general tasks, which includes sanitizing clipboards, asking people to fill out forms, taking temperatures and monitoring the newly vaccinated to ensure no dangerous side effects.

Some may question whether it's fair for volunteers to get to the front of the line for what's often clerical work.

Nancy Berlinger, a bioethicist at the Hastings Center, a research institute in Garrison, New York, said the bottom line is that volunteers are interacting with the public and there's nothing wrong with them wanting protection.

They also go through training and other obligations.

"There would be easier ways to game the system," Berlinger said. "If that was really your goal, this could take more work I think than some other routes I can think of."

While many volunteer shifts are several hours on weekdays, Berlinger said that doesn't necessarily mean only people of a certain class or demographic can sacrifice that much time.

"That could apply to students, it could apply to people who are unemployed, people who are retired. It could be people who are family caregivers," Berlinger said.

Arrested journalist pleaded with officer: 'This is my job'

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)—An Iowa journalist recounted getting pepper-sprayed and arrested while covering a protest for racial justice last year, testifying in her own defense Tuesday at her trial on charges stemming from the incident.

Des Moines Register reporter Andrea Sahouri told jurors she was running away from a scene where riot police had shot tear gas and were advancing to disperse protesters outside a mall in Des Moines, Iowa. She said that after she rounded the corner of a Verizon store, she saw an officer charging at her and put her hands up.

"I wasn't doing anything wrong," Sahouri said. "I said, 'I'm press, I'm press, I'm press.' He grabbed me, pepper-sprayed me and as he was doing so said, 'That's not what I asked'."

Sahouri said the pepper spray was "extremely painful" and made her think she was going to go blind.

Sahouri's testimony came on the second day of a trial in which Sahouri and her former boyfriend, Spenser Robnett, are charged with failure to disperse and interference with official acts. The case has drawn widespread criticism from media and human rights advocates, who call the charges an attack on press freedom. The pair face fines and potentially jail time if convicted of the misdemeanors.

Judge Lawrence McLellan on Tuesday reserved a ruling on the defense's motion for an acquittal, and could issue one from the bench Wednesday. A six-member jury is expected to begin deliberations Wednesday morning.

Body camera video played for jurors before Sahouri's testimony backed up her account, showing that she was temporarily blinded and hurting from pepper spray and repeatedly told police she was a reporter.

"This is my job," Sahouri tells an officer. "I'm just doing my job. I'm a journalist."

The Freedom of the Press Foundation called the video powerful evidence that Sahouri was "arrested while doing her job reporting on historic protests" and should have never faced prosecution.

Robnett, who accompanied Sahouri to the protest for safety reasons, also took the stand Tuesday. He said he saw Officer Luke Wilson spray Sahouri from close range, and that he stepped forward to say that Sahouri was a Register reporter. The officer then shot pepper spray at him, knocking him to the ground, before he was handcuffed and jailed, Robnett said.

World

Protesters adapt tactics after Myanmar police use violence

MANDALAY, Myanmar (AP)—Protesters against the military takeover in Myanmar carried homemade shields and moved with more caution and agility Tuesday, adapting their tactics to the escalating violence from security forces not reluctant to use lethal force to break up crowds.

In Mandalay, the nation's second-largest city, about a thousand demonstrators emerged onto the streets, those in the vanguard carrying shields marked with a three-fingered salute, the movement's symbol of defiance. They marched for just a few minutes before dispersing to avoid a possible confrontation with riot police. Another group made a mobile protest, driving through the streets on motorbikes.

Security forces trying to stop people from gathering have used water cannons, tear gas and rubber bullets most often, but also have fired live ammunition at crowds. The crackdown has left more than 60 protesters dead but has failed to slow the widespread protests against the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

A school principal involved in the protest movement died Tuesday from unknown causes after being taken into custody by security forces, according to media reports and an activist who knew him.

The death of Zaw Myat Lin in custody was the second in recent days. He was a member of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party.

The deaths of Zaw Myat Lin and Khin Maung Latt, a party activist detained on Saturday night whose body was retrieved from a military hospital the next day, have raised questions about whether the government is torturing and killing detainees. Witnesses said Khin Maung Latt's body had wounds consistent with torture, according to New York-based Human Rights Watch.

Zaw Myat Lin was arrested Monday night as he tried to escape from a police raid, the Voice of Myanmar online news service and other media reported.

Maung Saungkha, an activist and friend of Zaw Myat Lin, said his family was summoned to retrieve his body on Tuesday and was not told how he died.

Nighttime hours have become increasingly dangerous. Police and army units routinely range through neighborhoods, shooting randomly to intimidate residents and making targeted arrests.

According to the Myanmar-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, more than 1,930 people have been arrested in connection with the coup. Dozens of journalists have been arrested, including Thein Zaw of The Associated Press, who has been charged under a public order law that carries a penalty of up to three years in prison.

In what has become a daily occurrence, protest marches were held Tuesday in cities and towns across the country, according to local news reports and social media.

Protests occurred in Ye, a town in Mon State in southern Myanmar; Kyaukpadaung, a town in central Myanmar; Mohnyin, a town in Kachin State in the north; and Myeik Taung, in the southeast. The authorities reportedly used force in each case.

Russia to make Sputnik V vaccine in Italy, a first in EU

MILAN (AP)—Russia has signed a deal to produce its Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine in Italy, the first contract in the European Union, the Italian Russian Chamber of Commerce announced Tuesday.

The deal was signed with Adienne Srl, the Italian subsidiary of a Swiss-based pharmaceutical company, and Kirill Dmitriev, CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund. Production of a planned 10 million doses this year is set to launch in July.

"The innovative production process will help create new jobs and allow Italy to control the entire production of the compound," the chamber said in a statement. Financial terms were not released.

Sputnik V has not yet been approved for use in the EU, but the body's regulator, the European Medicines Agency, or EMA, started a rolling review of the vaccine last week.

Russian authorities are working on 20 similar collaborations in Europe and the Sputnik V vaccine has been registered in 45 nations worldwide, the chamber said.

The EU has been criticized for its slow vaccine rollout and some EU nations have decided not to wait for the EMA's approval. Hungary became the first EU country to authorize Sputnik V for use last month while Slovakia announced a deal last week to acquire 2 million Sputnik V doses and received the first shipment of 200,000 doses.

France's government has had regular exchanges about Sputnik V, but the country now doesn't have a production site available that would meet the necessary requests so no contract has been signed so far to produce the vaccine in France, according to a French Industry Ministry official.

US urges Sudan to build an inclusive government for all

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States called on Sudan Tuesday to build an inclusive and representative government that ensures peace, supports people on the margins and helps "those who have suffered achieve justice."

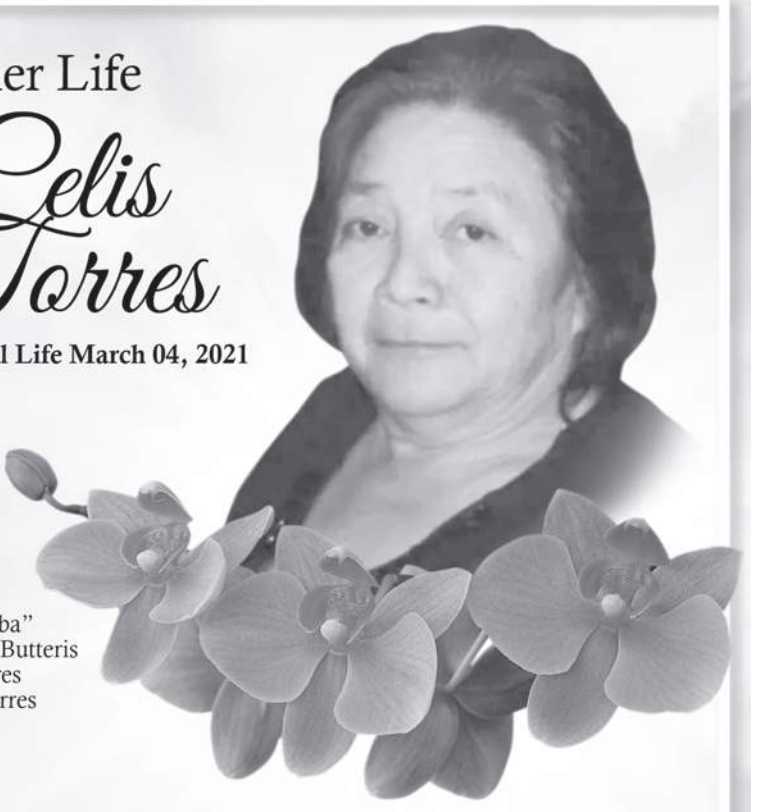
U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield also called for implementation of the historic Juba Peace Agreement signed six months ago by the civilian-led transitional government and rebel groups, saying so far "the Sudanese people have not seen the commitment and engagement by signatory parties necessary for progress."

She told the U.N. Security Council that Sudan should also complete the formation of an inclusive Transitional Legislative Council, where women comprise at least 40 percent of the representatives.

Sudan, which has been on a fragile path to democracy since the military ousted autocratic President Omar al-Bashir in April 2019 following mass pro-democracy protests, is ruled by a transitional military-civilian government. On Feb. 10, a new Cabinet was sworn in that includes rebel ministers as part of the power-sharing deal the transitional authorities struck in Juba with a rebel alliance.

In Celebration of her Life

†Diana Celis Cabrera Torres



Born August 20, 1952 – Called to her Eternal Life March 04, 2021

In her Eternal life, she now joins:

Father:	†Leonardo Camacho Cabrera
Mother:	†Ignacia Celis Cabrera
Father In-Law:	†Jesus Arriola Torres
Mother In-Law:	†Francisca Wesley Torres
Sibling:	†Jose Celis Cabrera
	†Juan Celis Cabrera
	†Remedio Celis Cabrera Diaz
Reared Brother:	†Jesus Antonio Teregeyo "Namba"
Brother In-Laws:	†Calistro S. Cepeda, †Glenn D. Butteris
	†Pedro W. Torres, †Jose W. Torres
	†Juan W. Torres, †Joseph W. Torres
	†Malcolm C. Weidner

Her memory lives in the hearts of:

Husband:	Francisco W. Torres
Children:	Pamela Torres/Rodney Quitugua (Leonard/Macy Aldan (Aleina, Ayven), Patrick/Lorena (Paigey), Dylan/Virhenny (Jaylan), Tyler, Rodney Jr.)
	Jeffrey/Nu'uipeau Torres (Arleena, Nani)
	Kolani Torres/Brian Taijeron (Kiana/Corey White (Mason), Alyssa, Josiah, Kaidan, Luis Jr.)
	Francisco "Kuks" Torres, Jr./Jermaine Cabrera (Aaliyah, Eliciana)

Sisters, Brothers, In-laws & Family

†Calistro S. & Eugenia C. Cepeda (†Delia & family, Leonora/Filomon Camacho & family, †Elsie Fejeran & family, †Leonard John, Jordonna/Bruce Sonthixay & family, Raymond Cepeda/Zania Fleming & family)
†Pedro W. & Margarita C. Torres (Margaret Bertha Torres/Frederick Pangelinan & family, Jackie/Joe Camacho & family, Peter/Trina & family, Jesse/Gina & family, Risha/Joseph Lifoifoi & family)
†Glenn D. & Victorina C. Butteris (Darrin Butteris/Doris Guerrero & family)
†Remedio C. & Vicente P. Diaz (Vicente "Cotch", Adrian, Thomas/Chelsey & family, Kekoa & family)
†Juan C. Cabrera (Rodney & family, Rowena & family, Lora Jean & family, Juan/Jadine & family, Ignatia Cabrera/Frank Hocog & family)
Dolores C. & Juan Camacho (Liela/Don Yumul & family, Peter & family, Nasia/Craig Sanchez & family, Juan Jr. & family)
Bernadita C. & Mark Palacios (Velma Palacios/Eric Benavente & family, Marvin Palacios/Lani Tarope & family, Franklin, Mark)
Pedro C. & Emerina Cabrera (Peonie/Gary Mills & family, Pennie & family, Carla Laguisma & family)

Sister & Brothers In-Laws

†Malcolm C. & Rita T. Weidner (Frances Weidner/Lamont Henderson & Family, Catherine Weidner/Isaac Ngirbabual & family, Kyle Weidner/Jami Starling & family)
Jesus W. Torres (Jamie & family, Jenel, Nicole, Vlad)
†Juan W. & Barbara Ada Torres (Frances & family, Eric, Audrey Jo Ada)
Magdalena W. Torres & Martin C. Tenorio (Peter Paul Maloney, Michelle/Carlos Sablan & family, Tim & family)
†Joseph W. & Rosita C. Torres (Joseph C. Torres/Kristina Springer & family, Robert C. Torres/Jolene Castro & family, Norman)
Teresita T. & James Applebaum (Renee/DJ Herrmann & family, Rachel)
Matilde & Lawrence Gozrulak (Jessica/James Serrano & family, Jennifer/Alex Romano & family, Joseph L/Savanah Washington)
Margarita T. & Dr. Vicente S. Aldan (Dr. Thomas/Dr. Gloria & family, Vincent/Nika & family, Pomaika'i Aldan/Rachel Reyes & family)
Maria T. & Norman Peters (Tabitha Lynn/Devin Raleigh & family, Jason Peters)
Roman W. Torres & Bridgit Imaizumi (Audry & family, Ryen, Ashley Torres/Anthony Malwelbug & family, Fermin, Dionne)

Our beloved Diana is survived by numerous godchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces & nephews.
Daily Mass of intention for the repose of her soul is being celebrated at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am & at Santa Soledad Church at 6:00 pm nightly except for Monday's.

Un dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen i Familia

Environment

How do we stop illegal dumping?

IVA MAURIN

Volunteers spent early morning Saturday last week to help pick up trash at PakPak Beach in Afetna, as organized by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality. Among the volunteers was CNMI Office of Planning and Development director Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong, leftmost, who stressed that behavioral change is key in addressing the islands' garbage problem.

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Early this week, a video of a man being caught illegally dumping bags of garbage in Koblerville went viral, drawing the ire of many residents who were quick to berate the deplorable action, which eventually led members of the man's family to also post a video of themselves cleaning up after the "mess," with an appeal to not further share the viral video.

Both videos have since been removed, at least on Facebook, but one thing remains, that there are people on island who continue to dump their garbage just about anywhere, unashamedly waiting on the government, or on community volunteers, to pick up after them.

Garbage has been a longstanding problem in the CNMI. Last year, in June, no less than Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued a strong "shame on you" message to those who keep wantonly throwing garbage, stressing that there is absolutely no justification for anyone to do that, under any circumstances.

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Eli Cabrera, at the time, echoed the message, adding that BECQ's Litter Control Section has been going out daily and responding to complaints that their office receives, issuing citations to those who dispose their trash in undesignated areas, as with the case in the viral video.

IVA MAURIN

Division of Coastal Resources Management communications specialist Colleen Flores placing bags of trash collected by volunteers into the BECQ truck that would then head to the transfer station where the volume of trash will get tallied. Every first Saturday of the month, BECQ's Cleanup Brigade brings together volunteers from within the organization and the community, to clean up a pre-identified area for two hours, where afterwards, the trash that gets collected is hauled away for disposal at the Marpi landfill.

IVA MAURIN

Volunteers from Saipan Southern High School spent early morning Saturday last week to help pick up trash at PakPak Beach in Afetna, as organized by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

Aside from BECQ, the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers also highlighted the seriousness of a problem illegal dumping and littering are in the community, pushing for a universal garbage collection in the CNMI.

Universal garbage collection

The council has recognized garbage as a "consistent hurdle" into establishing the CNMI as a world-class tourist destination by 2031. They believe that along with strict enforcement of anti-littering laws, the establishment of a universal garbage collection will help ensure a CNMI that is safe, clean, and respectable for both residents and tourists.

Council committee chair Alex Sablan, at a presentation before the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last week, spoke about the need to provide for the people the ability to properly throw their garbage, in their homes, and in public spaces.

"All we're doing right now is talking about the idea of getting back into the discussion of re-instituting universal garbage collection which is basically curbside pick-up… But, taking into account public spaces… We think a lot of the illegal dumping and a lot of our trash issues through education… processes that will hopefully resolve our trash issue."

» Preparing for a Universal Garbage Collection

The council's proposal endorses that the cost of garbage collection services be integrated into the billing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. issues, where utility provision is combined with garbage collection and disposal—a practice that is done in communities in the mainland, like Orlando and Florida.

Under the proposal, garbage collection zones are to be established across Saipan to aid to its logistical management. The council recommends the creation of five zones that mirror the existing electoral precincts—to maintain an equal accounting for the population within each zone. There will also be communal garbage transfer stations within each zone, with the government being proposed to tap into the services of the already existing garbage collection companies operating on island.

Standardized rates, charges, and fees across customers and across zones must be ensured, according to the council.

Behavior change

In a separate interview, CNMI Office of Planning and Development director Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong shared with Saipan Tribune that their office is aware of the recommendation made by the council and that they are in close partnership with the Department of Public Works, and the Rota and Tinian mayors' offices on solid waste concerns.

"We're aware of that interest by the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, and we're actually folding that into an RFP that's going to be coming out, to also consider universal municipal trash collection as part of an overall plan that we're seeking to put together for an integrated comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan."

He also noted that the plan requires the necessary feasibility studies, including researches on best practices in other places.

Ogumoro-Uludong, who was one of the volunteers at the BECQ's cleanup at Pakpak beach last Saturday, also stressed that they are looking at how to conduct behavior change among the community to help solve the islands' garbage concerns.

"One key is behavior change. That's also something that we're looking at… how to conduct a behavior change campaign [that is] island-wide to get our people to do their part, and recognize the importance of keeping trash off of our lives land, out of our water."

"This is our home, and the cleanliness of our environment directly translates into the health of, not just our natural resources, but of our people," he added.

Help keep the island clean and report any littering and illegal dumping to BECQ at 664-8500. Violators will be fined with a penalty fee of $25 to $5,000, based on the weight, type, and location where the littering took place, as guided by the Litter Control Penalty Fee matrix.

Life & Style

Piers Morgan quits British TV program after Meghan comments

LONDON (AP)—British television host Piers Morgan on Tuesday quit the "Good Morning Britain" program after making contentious comments about Meghan following her bombshell interview about the royal family.

The U.K.'s media watchdog said earlier Tuesday that it was launching an investigation into the show under its harm and offense rules after receiving more than 41,000 complaints over Morgan's comments about the Duchess of Sussex.

Morgan's departure was announced shortly after Buckingham Palace issued a statement saying allegations of racism made by Prince Harry and Meghan during an interview with Oprah Winfrey were "concerning."

Morgan

In the interview, which aired in the U.S. on Sunday night and then in the U.K. on Monday evening, Meghan spoke about how she "didn't want to be alive anymore" as she struggled to fit in with the monarchy. She also alleged that she faced racist attitudes from Buckingham Palace and British media, and that her requests for help with her mental health were rejected.

Morgan, 55, said Monday on "Good Morning Britain" during a discussion about Meghan's revelations that "I'm sorry, I don't believe a word she says.

"I wouldn't believe her if she read me a weather report," he said, adding the duchess had sparked an "onslaught" against the royal family.

That drew criticism from many, including the mental health charity Mind, which said it was disappointed and concerned by Morgan's comments on not believing Meghan's experiences about having suicidal thoughts.

"It's vital that when people reach out for support or share their experiences of ill mental health that they are treated with dignity, respect and empathy," the charity said.

Royal family says Harry, Meghan racism charges 'concerning'

LONDON (AP)—Buckingham Palace said Tuesday that allegations of racism made earlier this week by Prince Harry and Meghan were "concerning" and would be addressed privately by the royal family.

The comments, made in a statement issued on behalf Queen Elizabeth II, are the first from the palace since the two-hour television interview with Meghan and Harry rocked the royal family. Meghan, who is biracial, said the palace had failed to help her when she had suicidal thoughts and that an unidentified member of the royal family had raised "concerns" about the color of her baby's skin when she was pregnant with her son, Archie.

"The whole family is saddened to learn the full extent of how challenging the last few years have been for Harry and Meghan," the palace said. "The issues raised, particularly that of race, are concerning. While some recollections may vary, they are taken very seriously and will be addressed by the family privately."

The interview, conducted by Oprah Winfrey and which aired Sunday night in the U.S. and a day later in Britain, has divided people around the world. While many say the allegations demonstrate the need for change inside a palace that hasn't kept pace with the #MeToo and Black Lives Matter movements, others have criticized Harry and Meghan for dropping their bombshell while Harry's 99-year-old grandfather, Prince Philip, remains hospitalized in London after a heart procedure.

BTS on 1st Grammy nod: 'It's hard to express in words'

NEW YORK (AP)—Stuck at home during the pandemic, BTS created "Dynamite" and released the song to their isolated fans as a gift. Now, the gift has returned to them—in the form of their first Grammy nomination.

BTS arrives at the 62nd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Jan. 26, 2020. The popular band will perform at this month's Grammy Awards. JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/AP

"A lot of people were sad and down and out because of the COVID situation and it was sort of our suggestion to pick (everyone) up," Jin said in an interview this week with The Associated Press.

"We were supposed to do the whole stadium tour all over the world. There was no plan to release a single like 'Dynamite,'" RM explained. "'Dynamite' gave us huge success in Korea, of course, a Grammy nomination, a performance, so you know, life is really interesting."

"Dynamite" became BTS' first No. 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 chart when it was released last year. After years of logging Top 40 hits and selling out arenas and stadiums, the seven-member collective is competing for best pop duo/group performance and will also perform at Sunday's show.

BTS is the first K-pop act to compete at the Grammys.

"It's really hard to express in words," Jimin said of the nomination. "Even now we can't still believe that we were nominated, and we'll be able to perform at the Grammys. So, we're thankful. We're honored."

BTS' explosive hit will battle another No. 1 smash—Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande's "Rain on Me"—as well as Top 10 successes like Taylor Swift and Bon Iver's "exile" and Justin Bieber and Quavo's "Intentions." J Balvin, Bad Bunny and Dua Lipa's "Un Dia (One Day)," which topped the Billboard Hot Latin songs chart, rounds out the five nominees.

"I always listen to 'Rain on Me.' It's so great to listen to that song on the treadmill. It was a hit. It was fire last year," RM said. "And, of course, 'Intentions,' 'Exile' was crazy. And J Balvin and Dua Lipa."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

World viewership of royals' interview nearly 50 million

NEW YORK (AP) — Worldwide viewership of Oprah Winfrey's interview with British royals Prince Harry and Meghan is up to nearly 50 million people—and counting—as CBS quickly scheduled a Friday night rerun for anyone who missed it the first time. The estimate of 49.1 million viewers in 17 countries is sure to rise. Not all of the ratings are in, and CBS licensed the interview to air in more than 80 territories, the network said. In the United States, the interview was seen by 17.8 million people on CBS, the Nielsen company said. It aired a night later in Britain, where ITV said it had 13.3 million viewers, a huge number for a smaller country. CBS said the interview will be shown again Friday, from 8 to 10 p.m.

New owner Buzzfeed lays off 45 from HuffPost newsroom

NEW YORK (AP) — Buzzfeed announced Tuesday that it has laid off 45 reporters, editors and producers from the newly acquired HuffPost. HuffPost Executive Editor Hillary Frey, the website's executive editor, and Executive Editor Louise Roug also resigned over the layoffs, Buzzfeed said. The dismissals come just three weeks after Buzzfeed acquired HuffPost, the media outlet founded in 2005 as The Huffington Post, from Verizon Media. "We never got a fair shot to prove our worth," the HuffPost union said in a statement. According to excerpts released by the company, Buzzfeed CEO Jonah Peretti told employees at a meeting that "we will begin to restructure HuffPost today to fast-track its path to profitability. Unfortunately that includes staff reductions, and a number of talented colleagues will be laid off over the next few days."

Former nanny tires of keeping lesbian marriage under wraps

DEAR ABBY: I am an out-and-proud lesbian who recently celebrated 10 years as a couple and three years of marriage to my wife. I worked as a professional nanny for many years, and I'm still extremely close to the first family I worked for. Although we have known each other for years, they still ask me not to mention my marriage when I'm around their kids. They refer to my wife as my "roommate." It's all I can do to bite my tongue. I have ignored this for too long.

I recently invited them over to see my new home. Because of their conservative views, I warned them in advance about the wedding photos I have displayed. I'm not ashamed of my life. I am extremely proud of myself and my wife. I am hurt and offended by their requests. I feel they only accept certain parts of me.

I realize it's unhealthy to continue this way, but I'm terrified of losing them. I'm usually a straightforward person. I feel open communication is important with everyone else in my life. But I have lost relationships before because, no matter how respectful I tried to be, honesty can sometimes be hard to hear. How can I be honest without angering this couple, and what's the best way to start this conversation?

OUTSPOKEN NANNY

DEAR NANNY: If your former employers think they can censor their children's world to omit the fact that perfectly nice people, including one they love, are gay, they're dreaming. Kids today are very worldly. When the parents started calling your wife your roommate, you should have corrected them then and TOLD them it was offensive and hurtful.

Invite them to your home and leave your wedding photos displayed. Why you are terrified that your relationship with them will end because you're living your authentic life mystifies me. If they can't handle the truth, you and your wife are better off without them.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's brother has two kids, both of whom are now adults. The older one is in their second year of college; the younger one will graduate from high school this spring. We haven't missed a single birthday for either one. The only time we see them is when there's a birthday or it's Christmas (with a few exceptions, like the occasional funeral).

I think it's time to stop the annual birthday gifts. We're not particularly close, and I'm tired of the forced merriment when it's clear they are only after the gift. How do I tell the parents and the grandparents there will be no more gifts for birthdays without sounding like a stingy old aunt?

GIFTED OUT IN MICHIGAN

DEAR GIFTED OUT: Unless you want to make a change immediately, hang in there until the younger child reaches 21. At that point, put the parents/grandparents on notice that because "the kids" are now adults, you will be sending cards rather than gifts.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

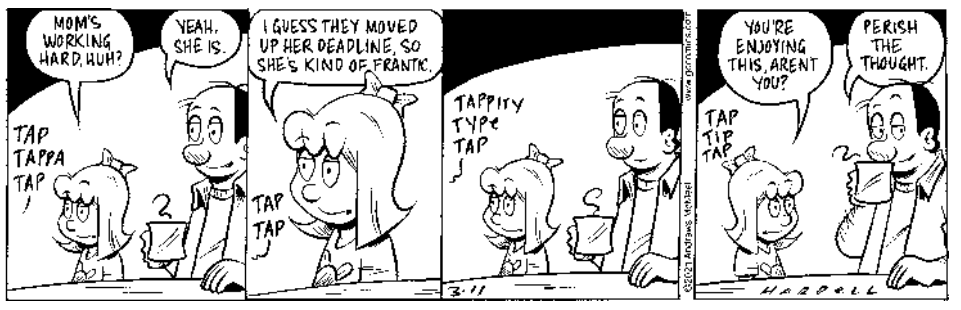
I'M NOT GOING TO SCHOOL TODAY.
OH, YOU'RE NOT?
NOPE! I'M STAYING HOME AND WATCHING TELEVISION ALL DAY!
APPARENTLY I WAS MISINFORMED.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

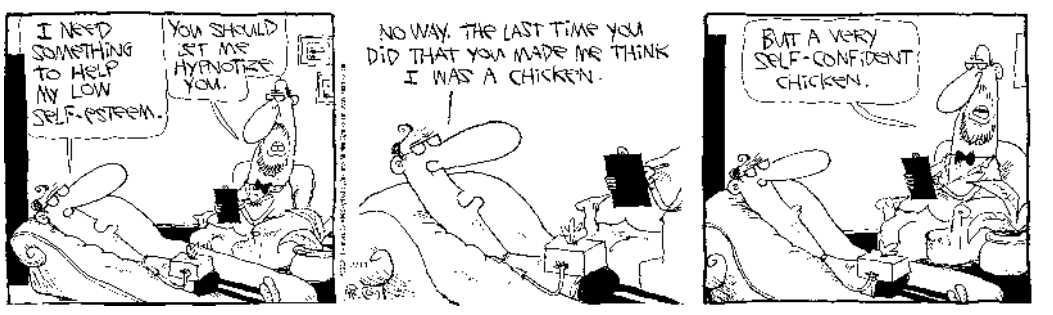
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


MOM'S WORKING HARD, HUH?
YEAH, SHE IS.
TAP TAPPA TAP
I GUESS THEY MOVED UP HER DEADLINE, SO SHE'S KIND OF FRANTIC.
TAP TAP
TAPPITY TYPE TAP
YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS, ARENT YOU?
PERISH THE THOUGHT.
TAP TIP TAP

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I NEED SOMETHING TO HELP MY LOW SELF-ESTEEM.
YOU SHOULD LET ME HYPNOTIZE YOU.
NO WAY. THE LAST TIME YOU DID THAT YOU MADE ME THINK I WAS A CHICKEN.
BUT A VERY SELF-CONFIDENT CHICKEN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Rani's dress
5 Soda
8 Wild guess
12 Avocado dip, for short
13 Santa — winds
14 Give a hoot
15 Verifiable
16 Decks in the ring
17 "Downton Abbey" role
18 Deli meat
20 Walmart competitor
22 Auto fuel
23 Galley item
24 Just adorable
27 Computer screen features
32 Simile part
33 PC program
34 Roman 1051
35 Soho resident
38 Whispered "Hey!"
39 Wee bit
40 Shock partner
42 Trumpet's cousin
45 Primary color
49 Burden
50 Newt
52 Skater Lipinski
53 San —, Italy
54 Coach Parseghian
55 And others (Lat.)
56 Org.
57 Fall from grace
58 Shoulder muscle, for short

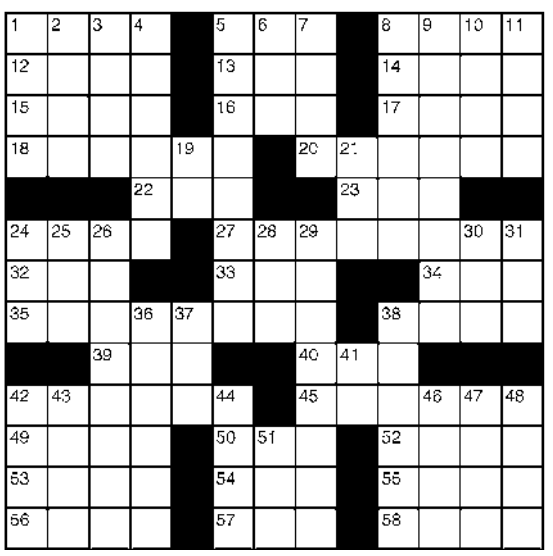
DOWN

1 Boot camp VIPs
2 Mystique
3 Actor Julia
4 Glacial period
5 Islamabad's country
6 Yoko of music
7 Bygone days
8 Ornamental beetle
9 Geometric puzzles
10 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
11 Tempo
19 Cellist Yo-Yo
21 Fine, at NASA
24 Western st.
25 Mil. morale booster
26 Fits
28 Mimic
29 Sunless bronzer
30 "Treasure Island" monogram
31 Command to Fido
36 Ted of "Cheers"
37 Praise in verse
38 Hit with snowballs, say
41 You and I
42 Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"
43 Till bills
44 Afternoon affairs
46 Overdue
47 Like some vaccines
48 Poet Whitman
51 Calendar abbr.

Solution time: 24 mins.

D	E	A	R		N		B		S	C	A	R
.	I	I	C		A	S	L		H	U	M	E
O	U	I	C	H	G	A	S		A	P	E	D
R	I	N	S	E			H	C	R	O	N	S
			T	E	A	R		D	E	F		
V	O	W	S		L	A	I	D		J	A	X
A	L	A		R	U	D	D	Y		O	R	E
T	E	D		A	M	A	L		S	E	T	S
		O	F	F		R	E	S	T			
B	E	F	I	T	S			N	I	E	C	E
E	R	G	S		T	U	G	O	F	W	A	R
T	A	U	T		A	S	A		L	E	I	S
A	T	M	S		Y	A	P		E	R	N	E

Yesterday's answer 3-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anthony Davis, 28; Thora Birch, 39; Johnny Knoxville, 50; Terrence Howard, 52.

Happy Birthday: Take the initiative if you want to get things done your way. Check the appropriate way to approach a project you plan to pursue this year by reaching out to the authorities who preside over such activities. Having current information and paperwork will make your life easier and the success you encounter satisfying. Leave nothing to chance. Your numbers are 7, 13, 22, 25, 38, 40, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* An opportunity coupled with hard work and enthusiasm will help you excel. Use your clout, connections and intelligence to orchestrate what you want to happen. Refuse to let someone strong-arm you into something you disagree with. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take a close look at what's going on around you. Listen to the opposition and make assessments before you respond. A little charm mixed with the power of persuasion will help you win support and respect. Offer peace and love. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Step back. Use the experience you have combined with intelligence to figure out what's best for you. Refuse to let someone coerce you into something that will cause mayhem or cost you your position. Don't let your emotions take over. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Show everyone what you are capable of doing. Use your skills, originality and vision to encourage others to help you bring about change. Getting back to basics, simplifying your life and sharing your feelings with someone you love will pay off. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Uncertainty will set in if you get involved in a joint venture. Reserve judgment, and don't lay your cash on the table prematurely. Question the process and proposal being offered, make adjustments and take part only when you feel at ease. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to get caught in an emotional argument. Put your energy into making positive gains, improving your lifestyle and meaningful relationships, and committing to someone or something you want to pursue. Personal growth, romance and gaining stability are favored. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Put your head down, and focus your energy on something meaningful to you. Whether it's learning something new, fixing up your space or starting a new hobby, the more you put in, the more you will get in return. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stop worrying about the inevitable, and focus on making your life better. Pack up what you don't need; get the clutter and dead weight out of your life. The positive changes you make will lead to the freedom you desire. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Opportunity will come at a price. Weigh the pros and cons before you make a decision. Verify information and do the math before you take part in something that might put you at risk physically, emotionally or financially. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a different approach to the way you do things, and you'll get remarkable results. Think outside the box in order to turn a skill you have into a moneymaking project. It's up to you to bring about change that leads to happiness. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Nurture your relationships with friends, relatives and peers. Let go of situations that aren't working for you, and focus on what's possible. Liberate yourself by putting your energy into personal growth and self-improvement, not trying to change others. ✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Spend more time with people who bring out the best in you. Motivation combined with desire will bring about positive change. Take care of details and live by the rules. You will gain momentum and the success you desire. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are resourceful, insightful and loving. You are entertaining and proactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	8						6
			4	6			
7				5			
		9			8	4	
	7					5	
	9	1		2			
		1					8
		7	5				
3					6		9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	5	4	3	8	9	6	1	2
1	9	2	5	7	6	3	8	4
8	6	3	2	4	1	5	7	9
6	8	5	4	9	3	7	2	1
2	7	1	6	5	8	4	9	3
3	4	9	1	2	7	8	5	6
5	2	6	7	1	4	9	3	8
9	3	7	8	6	2	1	4	5
4	1	8	9	3	5	2	6	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GIVE ME AN 'O' Solution: 9 letters

D	O	S	L	W	O	E	T	S	A	C	T	U	O	E
O	I	O	R	B	M	N	N	A	G	R	O	U	D	T
C	L	H	L	O	S	E	D	O	E	S	T	I	E	A
T	S	O	C	O	D	V	B	T	T	A	S	V	Z	L
A	N	T	N	R	S	O	S	R	G	T	I	E	I	L
G	U	I	Ⓢ	G	O	Y	I	E	U	L	O	Y	D	I
O	O	R	Ⓚ	V	O	C	S	O	O	C	C	R	I	C
N	B	O	Ⓐ	T	H	I	P	W	C	V	E	A	X	S
O	J	L	Ⓞ	O	S	E	N	A	L	N	A	N	O	O
V	E	E	M	A	R	E	S	G	R	E	N	I	D	V
A	C	I	O	A	R	I	O	I	N	T	I	D	E	E
T	T	O	T	T	O	M	A	N	E	F	S	R	W	R
I	I	I	T	N	E	N	O	P	P	O	S	O	O	L
O	O	C	C	U	P	A	T	I	O	N	S	E	T	Y
N	N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	I	R	O	M	E	N

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Oaks, Oasis, Oath, Objection, Oblong, Occasion, Occupation, Ocean, Octagon, Odds, Odes, Odor, Often, Oils, Oint, Olive, Omen, Omit, Ongoing, Onion, Onset, Open, Operation, Opponent, Orchid, Ordinary, Organ, Oriel, Orientation, Oscillate, Ostrich, Ottoman, Outages, Outcast, Outcome, Outside, Oval, Ovation, Oven, Overly, Owed, Owls, Owner, Oxidize, Oyster

Yesterday's Answer: Loading

The NEW **Treasury 43** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Heat say Meyers Leonard will be away from team after slur

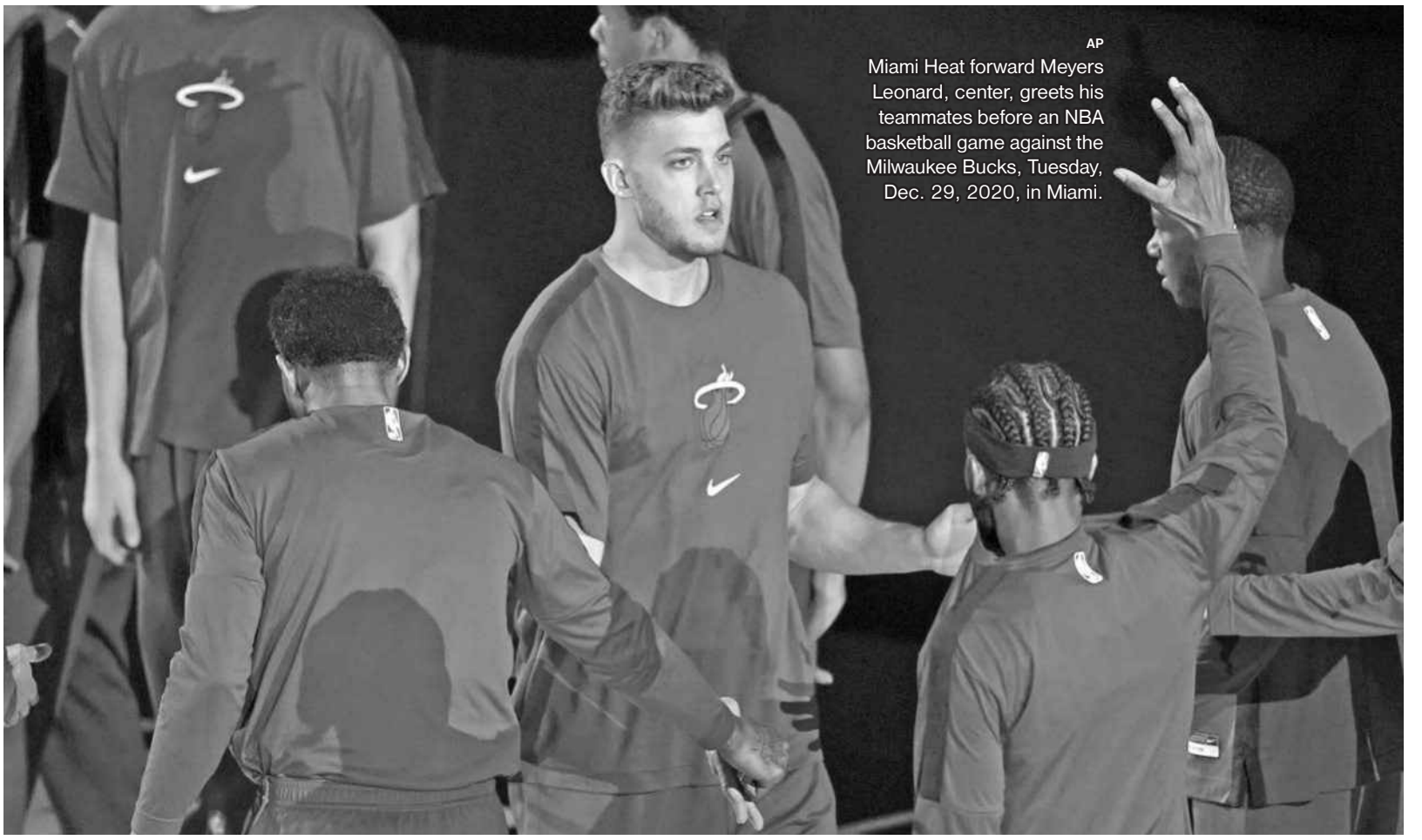
MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat said Tuesday night that Meyers Leonard will be away from the team indefinitely, sharply criticizing his use of an anti-Semitic slur while playing a video game that was being livestreamed.

Leonard apologized for using the term, insisting he did not know what it meant when he used it Monday. The Heat learned of the matter Tuesday, and Leonard's future with the team is now in serious doubt.

"The Miami Heat vehemently condemns the use of any form of hate speech," the team statement said. "The words used by Meyers Leonard were wrong and we will not tolerate hateful language from anyone associated with our franchise. To hear it from a Miami Heat player is especially disappointing and hurtful to all those who work here, as well as the larger South Florida, Miami Heat and NBA communities."

The team also said it will cooperate with the NBA's investigation.

Leonard acknowledged that he used the term Monday while streaming. In his apology, posted on social media, he said "my ignorance about its history and how offensive it is to the Jewish community is absolutely not an excuse and I was just wrong."



AP
Miami Heat forward Meyers Leonard, center, greets his teammates before an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks, Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020, in Miami.

Leonard also said he was apologizing to team managing general partner Micky Arison and his family, the team's players, coaches and front office, his family and the Jewish community, among others.

"I acknowledge and own my mistake and there's no running from something like this that is so hurtful to someone else," Leonard wrote.

The video began circulating widely on social media Tuesday afternoon and the fallout was almost immediate, first with online criticism and then sharp rebukes by the league, the Heat and even other organizations.

"Unacceptable. Totally unacceptable," Washington coach Scott Brooks said. Brooks added that he believes the NBA "will do the right thing and address it."

That seems quite possible. The NBA said it was "in the process of gathering more information."

"The NBA unequivocally condemns all forms of hate speech," league spokesman Mike Bass said.

Leonard, a 7-foot center in his ninth NBA season, sustained a season-ending shoulder injury in January and appeared in only three games for the Heat this year. He could become a free agent this summer; the Heat hold a team option on him for next season worth about $10 million.

This is the second time in recent months that Leonard has been at the center of a controversy.

Most players and coaches chose to kneel last summer for the playing of the U.S. and Canadian national anthems when the NBA season resumed inside a bubble at Walt Disney World in Central Florida. Leonard stood instead, his hand over his heart, and did so with the support of Heat teammates.

"I am a compassionate human being and I truly love all people," Leonard told The Associated Press at that time.

He added in that AP interview last summer, "I will continue to use my platform, my voice and my actions to show how much I care about the African American culture and for everyone. I live my life to serve and impact others in a positive way."

Pierce, Cooper, Bosh lead finalists for 2021 Hoop Hall class

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Boston Celtics star Paul Pierce, "Showtime" Los Angeles Lakers star Michael Cooper and 11-time NBA All-Star Chris Bosh lead a list of 14 finalists for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2021.

The list announced Tuesday features six other first-time finalists: former NBA coach Rick Adelman, two-time NCAA champion and Villanova coach Jay Wright, two-time Olympic gold medalist Yolanda Griffith, three-time WNBA MVP Lauren Jackson and former WNBA coach of the year Marianne Stanley, plus Hall of Famer Bill Russell for inclusion as a coach.

Russell, who won 11 NBA titles while playing for the Celtics, became the NBA's first Black head coach in 1966 while he was still a player. He led Boston to back-to-back NBA titles in 1967-68 and 1968-69 and was inducted into the Hall of Fame as a player in 1975.

Rounding out the list of finalists are Leta Andrews, the all-time winningest high school coach, male or female; Michigan "Fab Five" member Chris Webber; 2000 Olympic gold medalist Tim Hardaway; five-time NBA All-Star Marques Johnson and four-time NBA defensive player of the year Ben Wallace.

The Class of 2021 will be announced on May 16. The enshrinement ceremony is scheduled for September in Springfield. The exact date has not been released.

The Class of 2020 ceremony, headlined by the late Lakers star Kobe Bryant, was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic and has been rescheduled for May 14-16 in Uncasville, Connecticut.

Analysis: A few days off are just what LeBron James needs

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

The Los Angeles Lakers don't resume their season until Friday, a day or two later than most clubs, and that was a very smart move by the NBA schedule-makers.

For the Lakers, and for the NBA, these few days are critical.

This is LeBron James' time to recharge.

Since the NBA's restart bubble that saved last season opened last July, no player has logged more minutes, scored more points, handed out more assists, made more shots, taken more shots or finished off more fast breaks than James.

He doesn't mind the workload, even though he's 36 and the fourth-oldest player to appear in a game so far this season behind only Miami's Andre Iguodala, Portland's Carmelo Anthony and New Orleans' JJ Redick. And he's still elite, still an MVP candidate, still in the eyes of many the best player in the world. But even the best need rest, and that time is now.

"Is it enough time? I'll take any time, obviously," James said. "So, I'll take full advantage of the time that we have. Is it enough time? No, it's never enough time, but we're not on the side of time. I'm not on the side of time. I'll take full advantage of what I have and be OK with it."

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo is the two-time reigning MVP and now the reigning All-Star MVP, Washington's Bradley Beal is leading the league in scoring, Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors are back in the playoff mix, the Utah Jazz have the league's best record to this point and the Brooklyn Nets have added Blake Griffin to their Big Three of Kevin Durant, James Harden and Kyrie Irving.

They're all creating buzz. And so are others.

But James is still unquestionably the one who carries the biggest part of the NBA flag. His jersey remains the most popular in terms of sales, the Lakers lead the league with 17 national television appearances to this point and they draw the best national ratings. People might watch because they love him. People might watch because they hate him. Either way, people watch.

Other players—even other elite players—do as well.

"It's interesting to me how LeBron is still in one of the best shapes of his life and being the best player in the world and still be in Year 18," Antetokounmpo said. "That's really interesting. I want to know how."

He's not kidding. Antetokounmpo said at All-Star Sunday in Atlanta that he wants to pick James' brain and learn whatever the four-time MVP is willing to share.

"He's been consistent for 18 years," Antetokounmpo said. "He's always there. He's always showing up. He's unbelievable. He obviously gets credit but I think we've got to give him even more credit. Doing it for 18 years, guys, that's hard."

There were any number of players who weren't thrilled with the notion that the NBA had an All-Star Game during a pandemic and during an already jam-packed season. But once again, it seemed all about James — as if he was the only one who voiced his displeasure.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver didn't mind. He was just thrilled James was part of All-Star events.

"It would be incredibly hypocritical of me to say to LeBron that you should speak out on issues that are important to you, but not ones when you're critical of the league," Silver said. "We're all part of a community. I respect him and his point of view. Also, at the same time, I appreciate his professionalism. If you had a chance to see him, as captain and general manager of his team, proceed with the draft, he did it in good humor. He took it very seriously."

James went to Atlanta, played 12 minutes, checked out in the middle of the second quarter, became a cheerleader for the rest of the night and improved to 4-0 as a captain.

His All-Star break, such as it is, started there. He flew home to Los Angeles after the game, said he was looking forward to a couple days with his family, and preparing for what comes next.

"There's no concern for me," James said. "I just try to continue to put my body in the best condition, to be able to endure anything, shortened offseason, shortened regular season, shortened All-Star break. It's all about my mind, personally. Keeping my mind mentally sharp, keeping my mind mentally fresh."

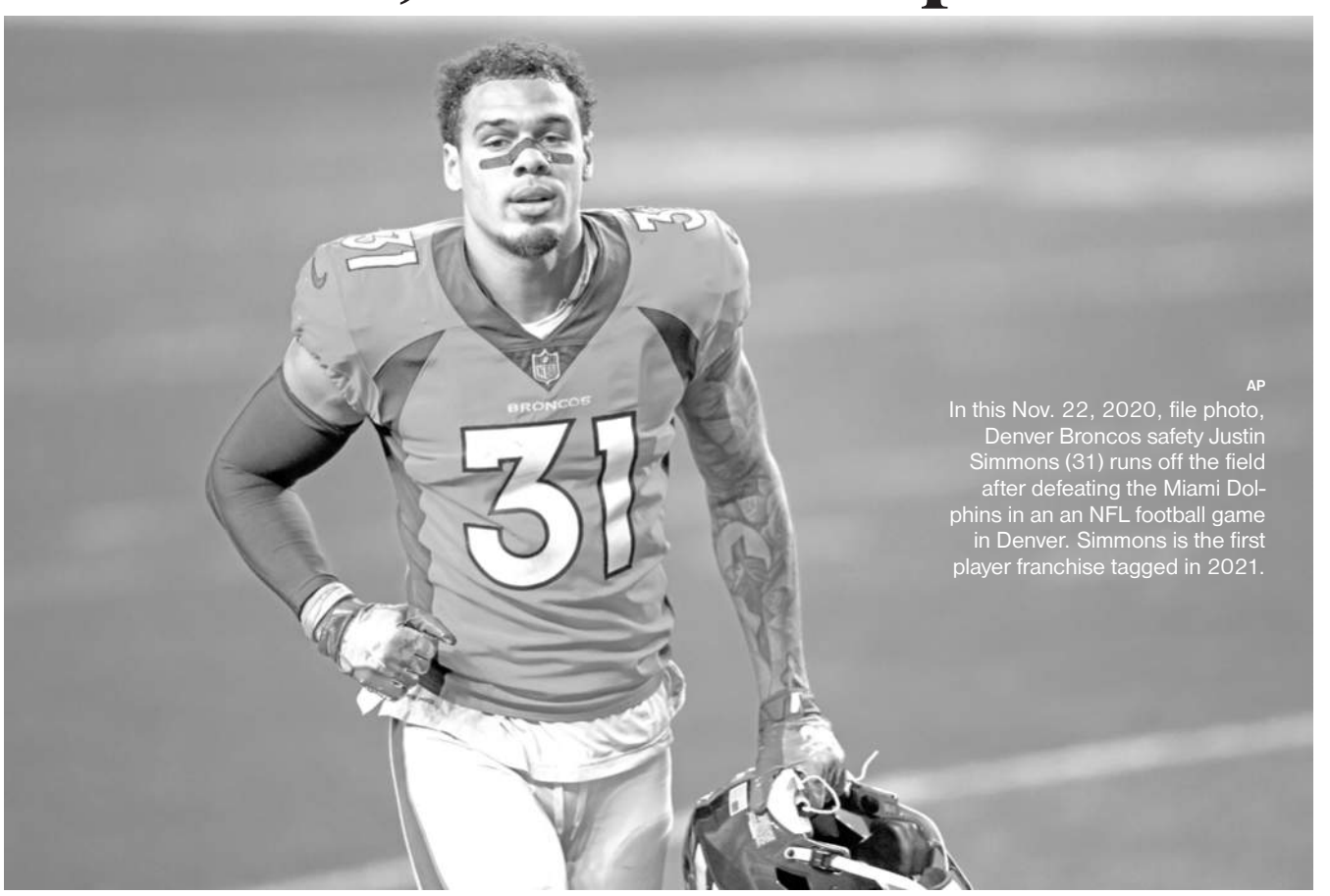
When the season restarts, James will be there. There's half a season left, then the playoffs and a title to defend.

These days will be his last time to really exhale for a while.

The Lakers need him at his best. The NBA would benefit from that as well.

Receivers Godwin, Robinson top franchise tag list

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



AP
In this Nov. 22, 2020, file photo, Denver Broncos safety Justin Simmons (31) runs off the field after defeating the Miami Dolphins in an an NFL football game in Denver. Simmons is the first player franchise tagged in 2021.

The big money that accompanies franchise tags for the 2021 season is going to receivers, safeties and linemen.

No running backs. No tight ends. No linebackers. And, with Dak Prescott reaching agreement with the Dallas Cowboys on a new four-year deal, no quarterbacks.

So wideouts Chris Godwin, who helped the Buccaneers win the Super Bowl, and Chicago's Allen Robinson were tagged just before Tuesday's NFL deadline. So were tackles Taylor Moton of Carolina and Cam Robinson of Jacksonville, defensive tackle Leonard Williams of the New York Giants, and safety Marcus Williams of New Orleans.

Previously announced as tagged players were safeties Marcus Maye of the New York Jets and Justin Simmons of the Denver Broncos, and All-Pro guard Brandon Scherff by Washington.

While none of them is in line for the $160 million, four-year contract — with a record $66 million signing bonus — that Prescott got, they all will bring home hefty paychecks.

Leonard Williams, Scherff and Simmons were tagged for a second straight year. Barring their teams working out long-term deals by July 15, they will earn about $19 million, $18 million and $13.7 million, respectively.

Godwin, a budding star with the Buccaneers — so much so that the team apparently will allow top linebacker Shaq Barrett to test the open waters — and the veteran Allen Robinson will be paid approximately $16.4 million apiece in 2021.

The going rate for safeties under their first tag is around $10.5 million, which Maye and Marcus Williams will make in New Jersey. Moton and Cam Robinson will come in at about $14 million.

The 2021 salary cap has not been set yet, but it will decrease from $198.2 million to between $180 and $185 million due to lost revenues for the league during the coronavirus-impacted 2020 season. It is the first decrease in the cap.

RECEIVERS

The 25-year-old Godwin earned $2.13 million in 2020 when he had 65 receptions for 840 yards and seven touchdowns in 12 games. Tampa Bay also has such free agents as defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, tight end Rob Gronkowski, receiver Antonio Brown and running back Leonard Fournette.

"He loves it here. It's hard to leave and go to another system just for money," coach Bruce Arians said last month, adding of Godwin and Mike Evans: "But it's not bad paying two No. 1 receivers, that's for sure, when they're as good as our No. 1s."

Robinson was on a three-year, $42 million contract. He earned his money by catching a career-best 102 passes for 1,250 yards last season in quarterbacks-weak Chicago.

SAFETIES

While Simmons and Maye, both rising stars, were expected to be franchised, New Orleans' decision on Marcus Williams was more surprising. He has been an inconsistent performer at free safety, though he does find the ball and has 13 career interceptions.

Both Simmons and Maye are considered team leaders, with Maye in particular stepping up when New York traded the disgruntled Jamal Adams to Seattle.

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

Scherff was an easy choice for Washington after his best pro season.

"I love it here," Scherff said on locker cleanout day. "I'm just looking forward to the offseason and hopefully I can sign my name to stay here."

Moton, 26, started all 48 games at right tackle over the past three seasons, and has allowed only 10 sacks in 2,071 pass-blocking snaps in his career and his 81.2 grade for 2020 was 13th among all tackles, according to Pro Football Focus. He allowed three sacks and committed two penalties last season.

Cam Robinson made the biggest jump in potential salary. A second-round draft pick from Alabama in 2017, Robinson made a little more than $7 million in his first four years in the league.

"We feel that the way the free agency is moving is that left tackle position — as always but maybe more now this year from hearing from the guys who have been in the NFL — this is a tough year for that left tackle position," coach Urban Meyer said, "and we feel just what's out there and with coaching, culture and development, Cam has a lot of the talent."

DEFENSIVE LINE

The 26-year-old Leonard Williams, the first player the Giants have tagged twice, has flourished with the team after being acquired on Oct. 29, 2019, from the other local New York club, the Jets. He was the Jets' first draft pick, sixth overall, in 2015.

Williams had a team-leading 11 1-2 sacks in 2020, the most by a Giant since Jason Pierre-Paul's 14 1-2 in 2014 and were 7 1-2 more than any of his teammates. He ranked third in the NFL with 30 quarterback hits and tied for sixth with 14 tackles for loss. Williams was fifth on the Giants with 57 tackles (29 solo).

Career fair helps former NFL players find new careers

The premise that every NFL player leaves the sport a rich man is as accurate as believing a football is round.

Yes, there are hundreds of players who earn millions upon millions of dollars — the guys at the top of the profession whose careers last far longer than the average.

Then there are the thousands of men who in their 20s or early 30s leave the game with a nice enough nest egg, but must find a way to support themselves and their families for the rest of their lives.

The NFL Player Care Foundation, established in 2007 with the mission of helping former players improve their quality of life, has created the Super Bowl Career Fair. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the third edition this year was conducted remotely through a career portal that allows employers to post potential employment opportunities directly to those former players. More than 40 national businesses took part in February, including PepsiCo, where Cleo Lemon, a quarterback with three NFL teams has been employed since last September, and Tony Dixon, a four-year defensive back with the Cowboys, has been on staff since 2009.

In his current role as director of customer management, Dixon helps recruit ex-NFLers to his company at the career fair. For years, he noticed a reluctance on the part of Fortune 500 corporations to go after athletes.

"It has taken the athletes who have had a successful career in these organizations to get the organizations to recognize the value they can bring, and they are adding tremendous value to these organizations," Dixon says. "As many skills as we are taught through sports, they are very transferable to any organization. How to persevere. How to deal with pressure. How to have a short memory. How to be a good teammate.

"That is the gap that we have. The NFL is a wonderful experience to have, but if you are not in the top percentage of most teams, you do not have facial recognition and might not have name recognition."

And those former players have had to fight against preconceived notions that they are nothing more than athletes. That they aren't intelligent enough. That they don't possess those transferable abilities.

"I span the gap as a person who has been there and done that and can relate to their experience," Dixon adds. "I don't care how many years they played, they wanted to play more. I don't care how much money they made, they wanted to make more. Let's talk about transferable skills that you have. Most people have no clue how to bring it out."

The career fair helps on both levels. The ex-players get a chance to present their talents that are applicable in the business world. Companies such as Microsoft, SiriusXM, Lowe's, and FedEx Ground — plus the NFL itself and nine teams — have organized opportunities to interview and recruit in a large scope.

Lemon held some NFL coaching internships and was a quarterbacks coach at Jacksonville State from 2017-2020. The work commitments took him away from too much family time, so he attended last year's career fair in Miami.

"I went with an open mind and with my resumes, and really the idea of what I was looking for, but I didn't know what would be offered or what the opportunities would be," Lemon says. "The career fair was very informative.

"For me, what it has represented is a chance to put myself out there for companies who are looking for young and talented individuals trying to expand outside their comfort zone ... and get to know people from different organizations and see that what they were doing aligned with my principles. The fair was a tool that helped me take advantage of my opportunities."

He was hired by PepsiCo out of the Miami fair.

Tony Simmons, a receiver in the NFL, CFL and Arena Football as well as a former college track star, wouldn't seem to have needed the career fair after building his own successful business, 6 Point Athletics. But the pandemic has played havoc on the fitness training industry, and with this year's fair held remotely, Simmons signed up.

He already has a Masters degree in Project Management and has worked on six continents. Yet Simmons prospered from attending.

"Sometimes you need to see yourself on a corporate level," Simmons says. "As players we have not worked on a corporate level, and I have been away from that corporate world for years. Maybe it's something I might have to switch over to."

Simmons talked to PepsiCo, Microsoft, SiriusXM and EA Sports among others. He believes the vigor of a former pro athlete is advantageous in any interviews — and on the job.

"It's nice to have people see you as Tony, as something different and with something that you are interested in, not as a football player," he says. "They loved the mentality of the athlete. Our energy levels are really high, we can learn anything. We learned a 150-page playbook in a week, so if we can learn highly complex plays, we can learn code and all this stuff."

A total of 153 former players had at least one conversation with a potential employer. None of those might have happened without the NFL Player Care Foundation Super Bowl Career Fair.

"I looked at the NFL as a head start on life, to do something I love, something I trained my entire life to play in the NFL," Lemon says. "I made lifelong friends, but it is a small portion of your life.

"Job shadowing and internships and setting them up, the transition can be hard and finding out what you really want to do. I think the NFL is doing a great job of preparing guys for life after football."

Torch relay among final hurdles for postponed Tokyo Olympics

TOKYO (AP)—The Olympic torch relay is yet another hurdle for the postponed Tokyo Games. It kicks off in two weeks from northeastern Japan. Any stumble could sew more doubts about the risk of holding the Olympics in a pandemic.

A year ago, the Olympics were postponed just as the relay began. The start will again be from Fukushima prefecture, the center 10 years ago of the devastating earthquake, tsunami and meltdown of three nuclear reactors.

At least 18,000 people died.

Olympic organizers are asking for restraint along the four-month route that will touch all 47 prefectures and involve 10,000 runners. Shouting and cheering will not be allowed. Polite clapping will be the order of the day. Torchbearers can run without a mask if they choose. And there could be changes to the routes and some stops and starts depending on conditions.

The start of the torch relay on March 25 is also likely to be held without fans, according to local reports. The Olympics open on July 23 followed by the Paralympics on Aug. 24.

AP
Two women take a selfie with the Olympic rings in the background in the Odaiba section of Tokyo, Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Q: This feels like an additional risk. Why are organizers taking it?

A: Because of the large sponsorship deals with Coca-Cola and Toyota. There was talk of doing away with the relay, but that was quickly nixed. The Olympic relay dates back to the 1936 Games in Berlin.

Organizers hope this time it will drive enthusiasm for the Olympics. Surveys show about 80% of the Japanese public say the games should be postponed or canceled.

The success of the relay is so important that Toshiro Muto, CEO of the Tokyo organizing committee, has been put in charge. Any slip, of course, would raise more questions about risks around the Olympics.

Q: Where do we stand again with fans from abroad? Will there be any?

A: If you believe all of the leaks in the Japanese media — no. Organizing committee President Seiko Hashimoto has said she hopes to have a decision by March 25. Local reports say the decision to exclude foreign fans has already been made and could be announced as early as next week.

The other key decision will be the numbers of fans allowed in venues. This is expected in April.

Local organizers have budgeted $800 million income from ticket sales. It's their third largest source of income, and it will take a large hit. Any shortfall will have to be made up by the Japanese taxpayers. Estimates suggest they are bearing about 80% of Olympic costs.

Q: Are these Olympics snake-bitten?

A: It's hard to recall one that has been more troubled. And recall that Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and Sochi in 2014 had massive problems.

Ironically, IOC President Thomas Bach said Tokyo was the best-ever prepared Olympics until the pandemic hit. And, despite the problems, Japan is one of the few countries that could pull this off.

IOC member Tsunekazu Takeda was forced to step down two years ago as head of the Japanese Olympic Committee in a vote-buying scandal tied to Tokyo winning the bid in 2013. His IOC membership was also removed. He denied any wrongdoing.

Last month Yoshiro Mori was forced to resign as president of the organizing committee after making sexist remarks. Basically, he said women talk too much.

Then there is the issue of costs. A study by the University of Oxford says these are the most expensive Olympics on record.

Q: Can athletes expect to be tested often?

A: In a word, yes. Athletes will have to pass a test before boarding flights from home. Organizers says they will be tested upon arrival in Tokyo. And they will be tested while in Tokyo.

The first edition of the so-called Playbooks released last month says athletes will be tested about every four days in Japan. The current Playbooks are vague and are to be updated in April and June with more specific information.

The Kyodo news agency is reporting that the IOC has asked Tokyo for even "more stringent" testing.

OLEAI

From Page 20

Responsible use of facilities

Meanwhile, NMSA has renewed its call to the public to follow rules and regulations at the Oleai Sports Complex, particularly the user guidelines at the track oval. Strollers and pets are not allowed at the oval and users are asked to properly dispose of water bottles and other trash. NMSA also requests the public to give way to national athletes training at the track and field facility.

The track oval was resurfaced in 2018, but some portions of the rubberized turf were damaged by Typhoon Yutu and need repair. The facility will have to be re-certified for athletics competitions and to meet international standards in preparations for the CNMI's hosting of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.

Besides the track and field oval, other facilities at the sports complex will be upgraded once the Federal Emergency Management Agency-funded improvement projects receive the go-ahead.

The structural assessment of the roof at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium will determine whether it will be repaired or replaced. Additionally, the gym will be airconditioned, while repairs and upgrades at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan ballfields are also part of the improvement projects. NMSA is still exploring the possibility of purchasing and installing a generator for the entire complex. *(NMSA)*

PAIRE

From Page 20

Paire 1 secured a strong lead behind Lindsay Davis who made the first goal in the seventh minute followed by a goal from Natalie Hill-Beyer in the 37th minute. Patty Coleman broke a 2-2 tie and secured the win when she found the back of the net in the 48th minute.

Matansa fought hard behind Tawny Barcinas who scored both of the team's goals. Barcinas made her first goal in the 37th minute and the second in the 41st minute to tie the game but her efforts fell short.

Paire 2 took an easy win over Kanoa behind Amanda Dunn who fired the only goal of the game in the 39th minute.

DIVISION A
Shirley's 8, Tan Holdings 0

Shirley's hammered Tan Holdings in their matchup last Sunday behind Katrina Costales who made three of the team's goals with help from Lillian Podziewski who made two.

Costales delivered the final blow in the matchup making three consecutive goals in the 35th, 40th, and 44th minute.

Podziewski started the team off on a high note, making the first goal in 11th minute followed by her second goal in the 27th minute. Fiona Bucalig, Jeralyn Castillo, and Julliane Hall each contributed a goal each.

Kanoa 3, Southern United 3

In the matchup between Kanoa and Southern United that ended in a draw, the teams played teeter-totter with each making a goal right after the other.

Kanoa's Kelsey McCiellan started the game making the first goal in the second minute.

Later in the eighth minute, Southern United's Pia Ngewakl avenged her team by firing the first of her two goals followed by her second in the 30th minute.

McCiellan brought the game to a draw in the 34th minute before regaining the lead with another goal in the 44th minute.

Southern United's Kaithlyn Chavez fired the final goal in the 38th minute to conclude the game in a draw.

DIVISION B
TanHoldings 4, Kanoa 1

TanHoldings outclassed Kanoa behind Julie Ann Capayas who made two goals with help from Jenny Capayas and Catherine Joy Barrozo who each landed one.

TanHoldings drilled Kanoa behind Julie Ann Capayas who fired her two goals in the 121st and 142nd minute.

Jenny Capayas gave TanHoldings the lead in the fifth minute followed by a goal from Barrozo in the 117th minute.

Shirley's 4, MP United 0

Shirley's Jeraldine Castillo carried the team to victory with her three goals with a contribution from Jhaza Mirano who booted one.

Castillo immediately took the lead over MP United with her first goal in the first minute followed by a goal from Mirano in the eighth.

Castillo continued to drill MP United in the 32nd and 33rd minute to secure the win.

KRISHNAN

From Page 20

gross of 99 (49-50). She then made a net 72 in the second round when she totaled a gross of 102 (53-49).

Completing the Top 5 were-June ace Larry Deleon Guerrero (net 146) and September ace John "Nanni" Cruz (net 150).

In the closest to the pin for Day 1, Tony Deleon Guerrero won in hole No. 6 and No. 15; Rene Batallones won in hole No. 8; and Krishnan won in hole No. 12.

For Day 2, Mariano Fajardo won in hole No. 3; Tony Benavente won hole No. 7; Cruz won hole No. 12; and Krishnan took hole No. 14.

The longest drive in Day 1 was won by Cruz in hole No. 9 and Nick Sablan in hole No. 18. For Day 2, Rick Kautz won in hole No. 1 and Alex Tudela won in hole No. 18.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA STANDINGS

Dove Women's Spring League

	W	L	D
Shirley's FC	2	2	0
Kanoa FC	2	1	1
Southern United FC	2	0	1
Tan Holdings FC	2	0	0

Division B

Shirley's FC	2	2	0
Tan Holdings FC	2	2	0
MPU FC	2	1	0
Kanoa FC	2	0	0
Southern United FC	1	0	0

Masters Division

Paire FC - Team 2	2	2	0
Paire FC - Team 1	2	2	0
Matansa FC	1	0	0
Tan Holdings FC	1	0	0
Kanoa FC	2	0	0

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	24	12	.667	—
Brooklyn	24	13	.649	½
Boston	19	17	.528	5
New York	19	18	.514	5½
Toronto	17	19	.472	7

Southeast Division

Miami	18	18	.500	—
Charlotte	17	18	.486	½
Atlanta	16	20	.444	2
Washington	14	20	.412	3
Orlando	13	23	.361	5

Central Division

Milwaukee	22	14	.611	—
Chicago	16	18	.471	5
Indiana	16	19	.457	5½
Cleveland	14	22	.389	8
Detroit	10	26	.278	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

San Antonio	18	14	.563	—
Dallas	18	16	.529	1
Memphis	16	16	.500	2
New Orleans	15	21	.417	5
Houston	11	23	.324	8

Northwest Division

Utah	27	9	.750	—
Portland	21	14	.600	5½
Denver	21	15	.583	6
Oklahoma City	15	21	.417	12
Minnesota	7	29	.194	20

Pacific Division

Phoenix	24	11	.686	—
L.A. Lakers	24	13	.649	1
L.A. Clippers	24	14	.632	1½
Golden State	19	18	.514	6
Sacramento	14	22	.389	10½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heat say Meyers Leonard will be away from team after slur

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Sports

Receivers Godwin, Robinson top franchise tag list

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Paire teams ease past opponents

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Patty Coleman wrestles for ball possession against a Matansa FC player during their masters divisions match in the 2021 Dove Women's League Spring last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The two Paire Football Club teams seeing action in the masters division eased past their respective foes in the 2021 Spring Dove Women's League held last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire 1 outclassed Matansa FC, 3-2, while Paire 2 nipped Kanoa FC, 1-0, as both teams started the young season with identical 2-0 win-loss records in the standings.

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Krishnan named 2020 Ace of Aces

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Das Krishnan won the championship of 2020 Ace of Aces Tournament after shooting a two-round net score of 129 in the Saipan Golfers Association season-ending competition.

Krishnan, who won the monthly tournament last May, shot a net 60 in Round 1 of the tournament at the Kingfisher Golf Links last Feb. 28.

The Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan F&B director fired a 38 in the front nine before retiring to the club house with a 40 in the back nine for a gross score of 78. By virtue of his 12 handicap, Krishnan was able to set the score to beat that day.

In Round 2 of the tournament at the Coral Ocean Resort golf course last March 7, Krishnan continued his good play with a net score of 69, built around a 42 in the front nine and 39 in the back nine.

Alex Tudela, who won the October ace, came in second place after finishing seven strokes behind Krishnan with a 136 net score. The 10-handicapper scored a net 65 in Round 1 in the strength of a 36 in the front and 39 in the back for a gross of 75.

In the second round, Tudela came away with a net score of 71 after firing 41 in the front nine and 40 in the back nine for a gross of 81.

Frances Sablan completed the Top 3 with a two-round net score of 141. Sablan scored a net 69 in the first round after the 30-handicapper had a

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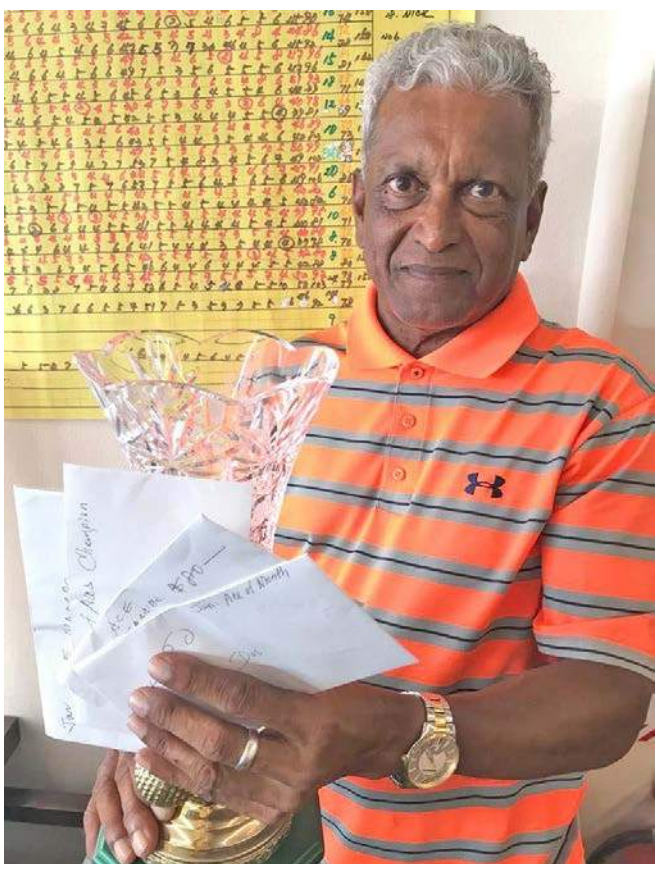

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Das Krishnan shows off his championship trophy and winnings after topping the 2020 Saipan Golfers Association Ace of Aces Tournament.

Oleai track oval lighting project ongoing

The lighting replacement project at the Oleai Sports Complex's track oval has started and is scheduled to be completed by August this year.

Carline Sablan, executive director of the Northern Marianas Sports Association which manages the sports complex, said the notice to proceed with the project was issued on Feb. 9 and work began immediately. Funding for the project, which costs $377,000, is from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program administered by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. The grant application was initiated by the Saipan Mayor's Office.

"Our track oval is one of the most utilized facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex so we are very pleased that we are moving forward with this improvement project. We want to provide members of our community facilities where they can train, exercise, and compete more safely and conveniently," said Sablan.

USA Fanter Corp. Ltd, the winning bidder for the project, was on-site two weekends ago to remove lighting fixtures and take measurements of the mounting brackets on the metal posts. All lighting fixtures will be replaced with LED lights, which are energy-efficient, cost-effective, brighter, and long-lasting. The new lighting system will come with a control panel that will allow for timers to be set and remote access. The project,

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

USA Fanter Corp. Ltd. workers head up to the post to remove the old lighting fixtures at the Oleai Sports Complex track oval last month.